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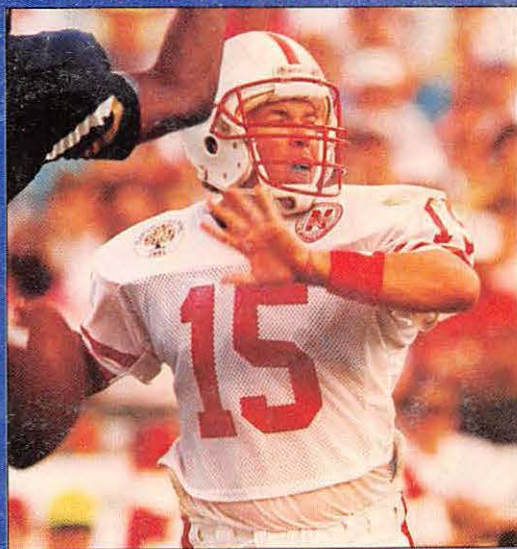
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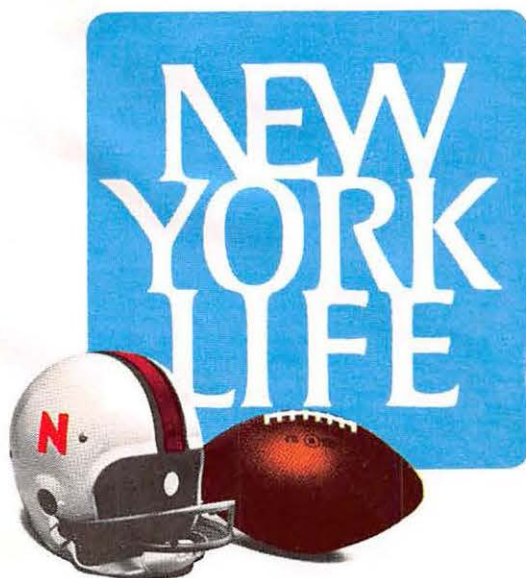
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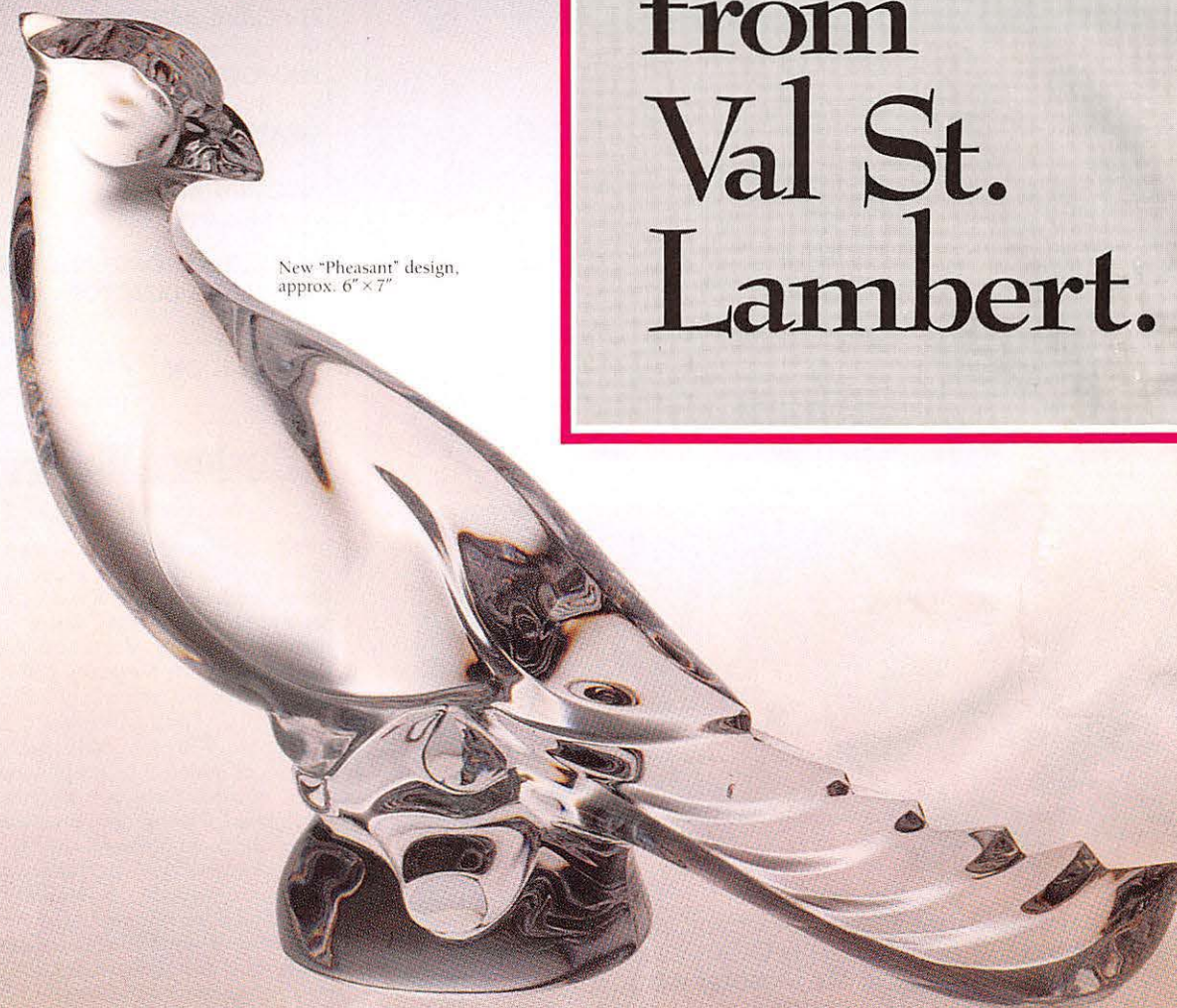
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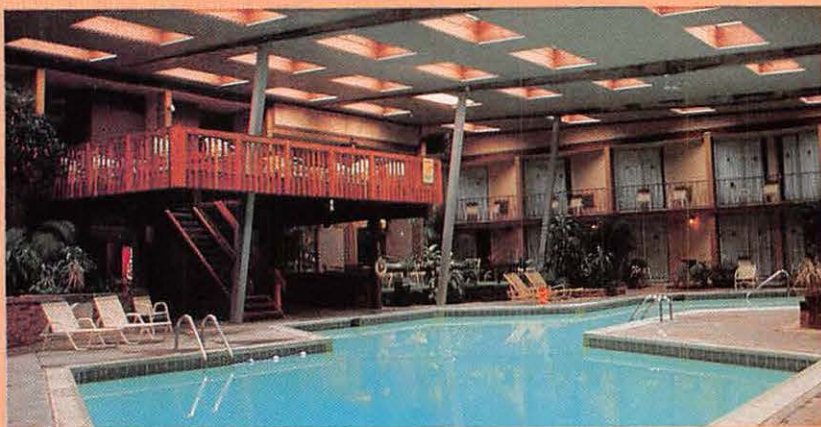
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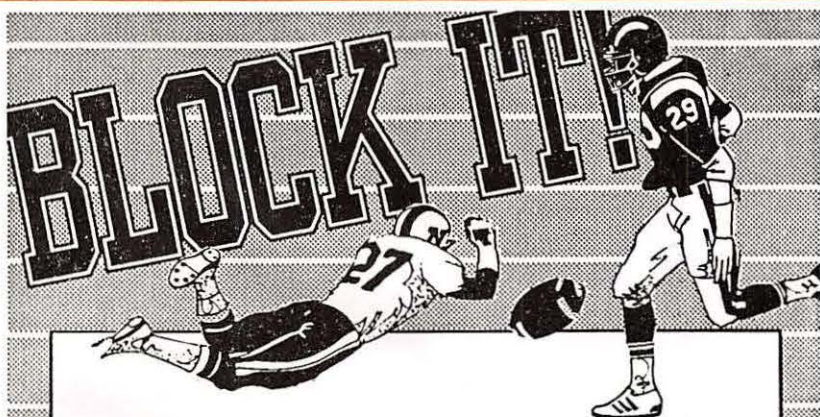
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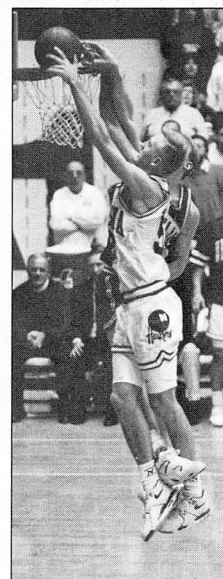
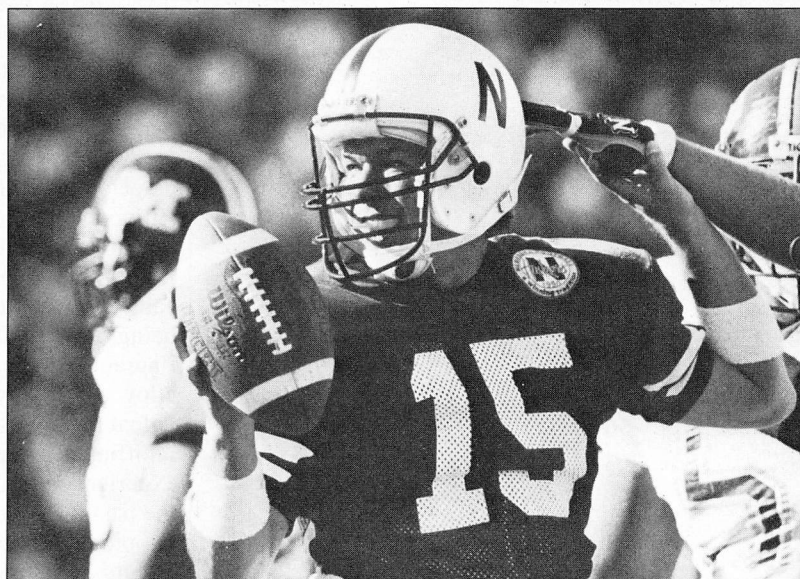
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On The Cover: Nebraska's big forward Beau Reid. Photo by John Bills.

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LETTERS

CALIFORNIA KUDOS

Dear Huskers:

Congratulations to Tom Osborne and his staff and players for another winning season. Although the style of football was unchanged, most of the wins were due to the big play and seemingly lacked the usual offensive consistency we have enjoyed at Nebraska. The unintentional maiming of quarterback Mickey Joseph led to the total collapse of the mighty Huskers. There's no doubt that Oklahoma was the better team.

It's strange that Colorado's 1990 performance is tainted with controversy and doubt. Two mediocre teams defeated the Buffaloes, both legally (Illinois) and illegally (Missouri). It is one thing to understand how the Big Eight must support blown official calls because the referees are human beings. It's another to support a flagrant violation to the rules and allow a fifth-down touchdown to defeat the opposition. What a contrast in officiating the Huskers must have experienced against Colorado over the past two years. Last year, multiple clipping violations were overlooked and this year a touchdown was called back due to an out-of-bounds signal that could not be proven by ESPN's cameras. That touchdown would have put the Huskers up 19-0 and upheld some lost momentum.

I'm not taking anything away from Colorado. I think they were the best team on the field. However, I agree with Coach Bill McCartney that the Boulder fans and team experienced some humility and good sportsmanship on their last trip to Lincoln but still have a long way to go.

The Northern Californians for Nebraska love the Huskers!

Walter E. Reiss

President, Northern Californians for Nebraska

UNBELIEVABLE

Dear Huskers:

I find it hard to believe that we came all the way back to Nebraska to celebrate Thanksgiving and renew our enthusiasm for Big Red football and an exciting 9-2 season, only to hear Coach Osborne asking for approval, support and appreciation for a tremendous rebuilding job by the coaches and players.

These athletes have provided us with exciting football for quite some

time. To criticize them and their coaches for giving their best effort is wrong. I don't feel that this is characteristic of true Big Red fans. There is not a better program that represents itself and the state in a more positive way through academics, discipline and great football.

For those of you armchair coaches and know-it-all people, why not trade in your season tickets, radios and red clothing and move somewhere that you can influence the players and coaches.

Randy Ross
Houston, TX

FAR FROM HOME

Dear Huskers:

As we start looking ahead to spring, I find myself a transplanted Nebraska fan far from home. I left Germany in November of 1989 with hopes of being closer to my favorite college football team. Those hopes ended in August when I heard my unit was being deployed to Saudi Arabia. Until recently, I depended on my wife, brother and *The Stars and Stripes* newspaper to keep me informed about Cornhusker football. None of the above proved to be an exceptional source of information.

I've learned of the season's victories and woes. While I'll admit that I am a bit disappointed, I am still a Husker fan and wave the University of Nebraska flag proudly. I've taken a lot of slack about the losses to Colorado, Oklahoma and Georgia Tech, but I just shake it off. I'm proud to say that I am a true Husker fan.

Living in the middle of the desert with the camels, scorpions and tanks, we all look forward to mail. That's really about all that we have to look forward to. Today, I received a package from another transplanted Nebraska fan who now lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He sent me three slightly used issues of *HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED*. Suddenly, it seems life in a foreign land isn't so bad. I want to thank him for sending me your magazine and thank you for producing such a great publication.

Joel Carmichael
Operation Desert Shield
Saudi Arabia

Joel: Our staff is very appreciative of your letter. We want you to know that

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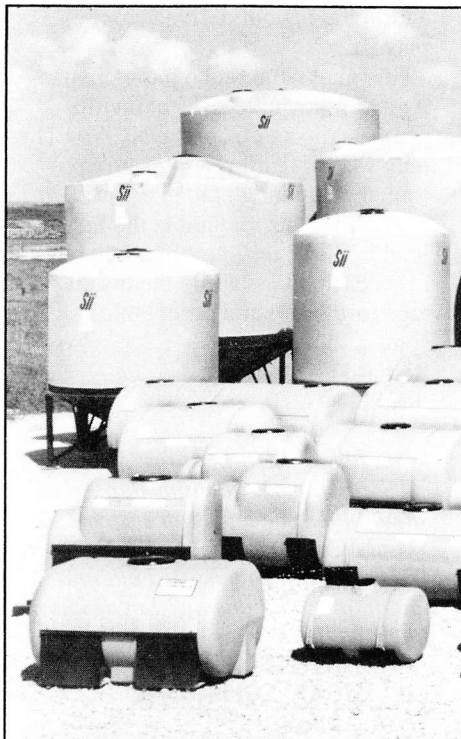
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PLAYOFF PROPONENT

Dear Huskers:

Now that Colorado is No. 1 and eminent sportswriters are questioning their legitimacy, it's time to get this Colorado-Missouri thing settled. First, the reason that Colorado's Bill McCartney talked of slick field conditions in the same context as fifth-down blunders was because both issues were framed as "fairness" issues. Believe me, if your favorite team had played on that field (you had to see it to understand what I am talking about) with an option/speed attack on a clear day, you would be saying the same thing. Second, even if one excludes the playing field as an issue, in no way should Mr. McCartney consider forfeiting the game. Why? If the down marker had read "3" instead of "2," Colorado would certainly have not called a run-then-pass combination. They may have still lost the game, but to say they certainly should lose because their quarterback spiked the ball on apparently third, but in reality fourth down, is just ludicrous. How can you penalize a team that relied on false information which led them to do something totally irrational in light of the truth?

I have a unique idea for a playoff system in college football. Beginning on the third Saturday in November, 16 seeded teams begin a three-week playoff that will eliminate all but two squads. Those two would play for the championship soon after the bowl games are completed. The 16 teams would consist of Division 1-A conference champions and a few independents and at-large teams that are chosen and seeded by a committee, similar to the NCAA basketball tournament. Top seeds would play at home until the final game, thereby saving money designated for travel. Bowls can invite any playoff teams and non-playoff teams, so the bowls are retained as a warm weather holiday for fans and players for a good season. That's the purpose that they best serve and were originally intended.

The advantages to this are that the bowls are retained. Decreased bowl

payoffs would be offset by enormous playoff revenue. Final exam schedules are unaffected (a problem with any bowl-based playoffs), plus the season does not extend unreasonably into the winter semester (a problem with all post-bowl playoffs).

The disadvantages are that schedules, as they exist now, would have to be revamped to move games forward in the fall, though no games would have to start before Sept. 1, as 11 weeks are always available for games between Sept. 1 and the third Saturday in November. I would suggest a 10-game regular season, which could be interestingly augmented by one game if realignment moves forward as predicted. The two divisions of "super conferences" could play champion against champion and so on down the list.

The major disadvantage is probably the uncertainty of revenue magnitude and allocation in the first two years of the playoffs. The system would have to be approved without knowing for sure what each school would receive from a new combination of lower payouts from bowls and regular-season television and the additional payout derived from a playoff.

This plan would take more creativity and innovative risk-taking than can be expected from the NCAA. The only reason that I risk appearing foolish and unrealistic in even suggesting this method is the fact that it addresses every problem inherent in other methods while the disadvantages are small and acceptable by some comparison.

Richard L. Jobes
Seattle, WA

What about it Husker fans? After the recent national championship debate, should there be a playoff system? Should Colorado be No. 1? Did Georgia Tech get cheated out of a national championship? Let us know how you feel.

NO WEAK SCHEDULE

Dear Huskers:

I have really enjoyed getting your magazine and I would like to comment on a letter in the Nov. 23rd issue of HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED. I have the schedule for 1991 and 1992 and North Texas State is not on there. In 1991, Nebraska plays Utah State,

Colorado State and Washington at home and at Arizona State. Colorado State and Washington were in bowls last season. In 1992, Temple, Utah and Arizona State come to Lincoln and the Huskers travel to Washington. They play Wyoming, Texas Tech, UCLA and Colorado State in 1993. So much for a weak schedule over the next three years. Go Big Red!

Tom Hoganson
Bailey, CO

LOOKING TO 1991

Dear Huskers:

I am writing this letter to share my opinion of the Nebraska football team of 1990. I believe that this team has more heart and ability than many people give it credit for having. Yes, the team did lose three games last season, but look at the opponents that they faced. They lost to the two best teams in the nation and a team that has been Nebraska's arch-rival for many years.

Despite what has transpired this season, I am still very proud to be a Husker fan and I'm sure my opinion is shared by anyone and everyone that is a true Husker fanatic. I have a very tough time taking and accepting a Nebraska loss, mainly because I live in Colorado where Buffalo fans have just miraculously started appearing right after CU started winning. I have to hear all of the anti-Nebraska statements that are made by short-sighted fans who say that the Black Shirts should be called the Black Skirts. It's times like these when I realize that I am very lucky to follow such an excellent football program.

As for the 1990 Husker team, I would like to congratulate them on an excellent season, despite the fact that they lost three games. There are so many things that these players (and fans) should be thankful for. We've been so spoiled because we expect to go undefeated. We seem to lose sight of the fact that we have excellent coaching and outstanding tradition which can not be matched by anyone.

I believe that this football team has represented Nebraska's football program as well as any other Husker team has in the past and the 1991 Huskers will do the same. How many teams could have a deaf player, two freshmen and a third-string quarter-

back play so well in a major bowl game? Only at Nebraska are these things possible! That is why myself and the many fans nationwide love this football program and the team.

If the team still has doubts about how great that they truly are, they should listen to the ABC commentators' comments. Here's to another great season in 1991. Go Big Red!
John Sandvick
Loveland, CO

Dear Huskers:

I am writing this just after another embarrassing loss in the Citrus Bowl. First, I want to give my support to Coach Tom Osborne. I know there will be and currently are those who want him out of the job at Nebraska, but the good fans who care about a clean program and players learning good morals will be behind him 100 percent.

I think that quarterback Tom Haase should be congratulated for a spectacular job against Georgia Tech. I think he is going to give Mickey Joseph a very good battle for the starting job next year.

If the Huskers are to make a national championship run next year, the linemen are going to have to spend a lot of extra time in the weight room to get bigger and stronger. They were much too small, in my opinion, this season. So, get with it linemen! When you bury the Washington Huskies next season, your team will be No. 1 or No. 2 and then you can get the greatest coach in America his first national championship.
Cory Stejskal
Huntington Beach, CA

Dear Huskers:

I have been an avid Husker fan since the days of Herman Rohrig and company. I suffered through the mostly mediocre seasons of the '50s and early '60s, and gloried in the successful teams of the Devaney/Osborne era. I sincerely appreciate the winning times these men have brought to Nebraska football and applaud Tom Osborne's outstanding record in the decade of the '80s. However, I'm afraid it's time for a change.

The Husker coaching staff has simply been unwilling to give priority to the passing game. They have consistently (until last year) recruited

quarterbacks with "quick feet" over those with strong arms. This inability to develop a decent passing game has equalizer. It's what enables a Missouri (except for an illegal fifth down) to defeat a much more powerful Colorado team, and permits a less-talented Iowa State squad to upset considerably stronger Oklahoma.

Defensively, without the opportunity to practice regularly against a good passing game, the players cannot be expected to consistently rise to the challenge when facing teams with good passing attacks in real game situations.

The Husker football program has given us fans a lot to be thankful for during the last 20 years. But football, like life, is not static. You either move forward or you fall behind. The current Husker squad has a wealth of talented people both on offense and defense. It is unfair to frustrate their talents.

My further fear is that in the future, good, young players will be reluctant to commit to a school that gets blown away by every good team it plays, especially when the slaughter is shown on national television. Most certainly, quarterbacks who can throw and receivers who can catch are not likely to opt for a university program that looks like it doesn't know that the forward pass has been invented. I'm sure there are many loyal Husker fans who will disagree vehemently with my position. All I ask is that this loyal Husker fan be granted the opportunity to express his opinion.

Tom Kosuth
Santa Ana, CA

HOW ABOUT HOOPS?

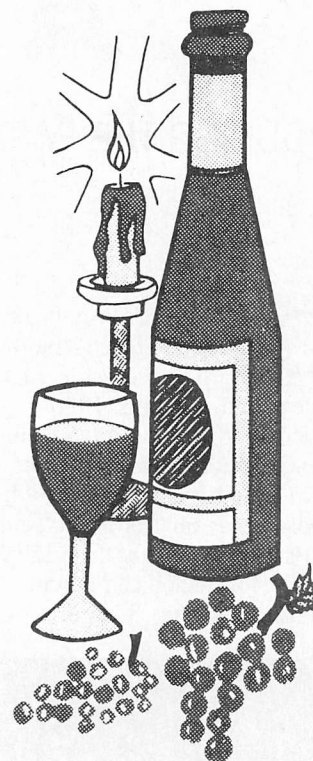
Dear Huskers:

With all of the talk surrounding Nebraska's defeats to Oklahoma and Georgia Tech, one thing has been overlooked — the great job by Danny Nee and the Husker basketball team.

From the win over Michigan State to the Big Eight opening win at Kansas State, this team has shown again and again that basketball is not just "another sport" at Nebraska. They're doing a great job and deserve some respect. Let's root the Husker basketball team on to victory.
Dwayne Johnson
Omaha, NE

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BIG EIGHT

A Look Back

DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE BIG EIGHT GAVE FANS SOME MEMORABLE AND NOT-SO-MEMORABLE MOMENTS.

By Kevin Henry

Despite all of the talk of the Big Eight Conference steadily moving toward a recession in terms of talent and winning, 1990 was a very good year for the league members.

Granted, Oklahoma State did not live up to expectations and Missouri's season was far from spectacular. But, let's look at some of the brighter points of the completed campaign.

Fact: Kansas State improved from

a 1-10 mark to a 5-6 record. The 'Cats tied for sixth in the league with Kansas and OSU.

Fact: Gerald Hudson, the Cowboys' latest addition to a string of star tailbacks, led the nation in rushing, averaging 149.27 yards per outing. He was the eighth Big Eight runner to top the national rushing list. Hudson rambled for 264 yards in OSU's finale against Iowa State, which was a personal

best and the league's 15th best in history.

Fact: Colorado defeated Notre Dame in the Federal Express Orange Bowl to win the mythical national championship, according to the Associated Press.

Fact: Colorado (11-1-1), Nebraska (9-3) and Oklahoma (8-3) were ranked among the nation's Top 10 at some point during the season.

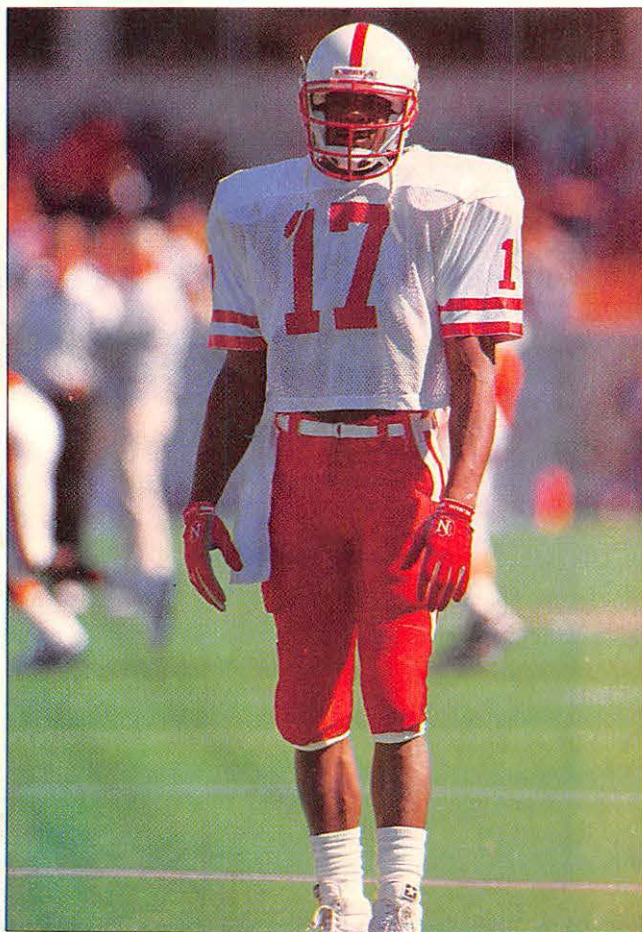
There have been plenty of good times and bad times in the Big Eight this season. Let's take a look at each team, listed alphabetically, and their high and low moments of 1990.

COLORADO

Good Team Times: The Buffs withstood a rigorous nonconference schedule and earned a 3-1-1 mark. It was the beneficiary of the "Fifth Down" touchdown that enabled the Buffs to escape from Columbia with a 33-31 victory over Missouri. Colorado shot down Oklahoma in a close game before going to Lincoln and scoring 27 points on the highly-touted Nebraska defense in the fourth quarter for a 27-12 victory. A 69-3 hammering of Kansas State gave Colorado its second consecutive Big Eight title. A 10-9 victory over Notre Dame gave the Buffs their first national title.

Good Player Times: Eric Bieniemy finished high in the balloting for the Heisman and landed on some All-America squads. Guard Joe Garten and outside linebacker Kanavis McGhee also made their presence felt on All-America teams.

Bieniemy finished second in the league in rushing and sixth in total offense, but was the conference's top all-purpose runner and scorer. Quar-



Nebraska's Reggie Cooper established a school mark for solo tackles by a defensive back.

IN REVIEW

terback Darian Hagan finished third in passing efficiency and fifth in total offense. Dave McCloughan led the league in punt returns.

Bad Times: Colorado's 33-31 win over Missouri. Darian Hagan's running game and absence from the league's Top 20 all-purpose runners. A last-second win over Stanford at home. A tie with Tennessee in the Disneyland Pigskin Classic after it appeared the Buffs had put the game away. Colorado's pass defense fell apart in the final minutes and allowed the Volunteers to get the tie.

IOWA STATE

Good Team Times: Certainly at the top of the list for the 4-6-1 Cyclones would be the 33-31 win over Oklahoma at Norman. Many magazines have ranked this game as one of the year's biggest upsets. ISU scored 35 points on cross-state rival and Big Ten champion Iowa in a 45-35 loss. ISU finished third in the league in passing offense, averaging 196 yards per game.

Good Player Times: Blaise Bryant completed his Cyclone career with 2,269 yards. That mark ranks him sixth on the school's all-time list and was the second-highest mark ever for a two-year back in Big Eight history. Bryant ranked second in the conference in scoring with 78 points. Kicker Jeff Shudak accounted for 84 points, the most ever for his position at Iowa State. Shudak was fifth in the league in scoring, totalling 84 points.

Quarterbacks Chris Pedersen and Bob Utter also enjoyed productive years. Utter finished second in the league in passing efficiency while Pedersen was sixth. Pedersen led the conference in total offense with a 241.22 average and was 17th among all-purpose runners.

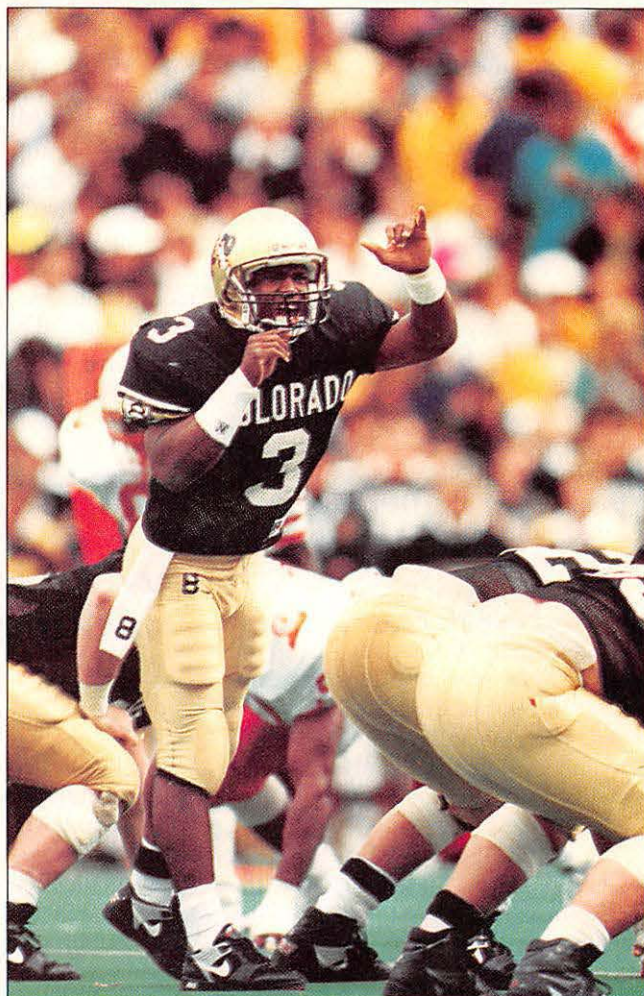
Bad Times: ISU needed to win against the likes of Kansas, Kansas State and Oklahoma State. It tied the Jayhawks and lost the other two. It was extended at home by Western Michigan, 34-30. The Cyclones were 1-4 on the road with the lone win coming in Norman.

KANSAS

Good Team Times: The Jayhawks came from behind to edge OSU in Stillwater and Kansas State at home.

Hagan (left) and the Buffs "hung loose" and won the Big Eight and the "very" mythical national championship (according to AP).

Nebraska's Tyrone Hughes (below) was third in the nation in kickoff returns, averaging 29.06 yards per attempt.



As a team, there wasn't much to celebrate as the 'Hawks closed out the season with a 3-7-1 mark.

Good Player Times: Tony Sands was sixth in the league in rushing with a 68.82 yard average per outing. Quarterback Chip Hilleary was fourth in the conference in total offense. KU had three players (Maurice Douglas, Sands and George White) in the Top 20 in all-purpose running. Dan Eichloff was the best underclassman kicker in the league. Best of all for Kansas, all of these players will return next season.

Bad Times: KU was manhandled at home by Virginia, Colorado and Nebraska, enduring a five-game winless streak, including a tie at home with Iowa State. The Jayhawks travelled to Miami to play the Hurricanes, were coaxed into a pre-game fight, and went home with a 34-0 loss.

Kansas was near the bottom of every team category, both in the league and in the nation. It ranked last in the Big Eight in scoring offense and defense. In total offense, the Jays were sixth, but grabbed the number seven spot in total defense. The 'Hawks must solidify on both sides of the ball to avoid a 1990 repeat.

KANSAS STATE

Good Team Times: Overall, the season was a success for Bill Snyder and his 'Cats. The five wins in 1990 was more than K-State could muster in the previous five years combined.

It snapped a winless streak against Division I-A competition by crushing New Mexico State 52-7. It ended a Big Eight winning drought by clipping Oklahoma State. It ended the year 5-1 at home. K-State was second in the conference in passing offense and in pass defense.

Good Player Times: Carl Straw was third in the league in total offense. Straw became the 10th player in conference history to throw for over 5,000 yards in his career.

K-State had two of the top four receivers in the league in Michael Smith and Frank Hernandez. Smith was also fourth in the league in punt returns. Both players return next year.

Jaime Mendez led the league in interceptions while teammate Rogerick Green was fourth.

Bad Times: The 'Cats were seventh in the league in rushing and total offense and gave up 405.5 yards per

game on defense. KSU was 0-5 on the road, losing to Missouri and Kansas. Both games were considered crucial in the true "rebuilding" of the program. KSU was stomped 64-3 in its last game of the year at Colorado.

MISSOURI

Good Team Times: The Tigers pummeled Arizona State in Columbia to gain its first victory over a ranked team in years. It should have beaten Colorado. The Tigers showcased the most productive passing attack in Big Eight history. The team completed 246 of 404 passes for 3,248 yards. All of those stats are conference records. It

Gregg Barrios broke almost every Nebraska kicking record.

led the league in passing offense for the second straight year and was third in total offense. Mizzou also captured its 500th collegiate victory in the season finale against Kansas.

Good Player Times: Senior wide receiver Linzy Collins set, tied or extended seven receiving records and finished as the school's all-time leading receiver. Collins, tight end Tim Bruton and fullback Michael Jones played in the Blue-Gray game and all made contributions to the Blue's 17-14 win. Quarterback Kent Kiefer set 21 school and conference passing records and was awarded a post-graduate scholarship for his 3.6 GPA.

Bad Times: Mizzou finished last in the league in total defense and rushing defense while finishing seventh in scoring defense. The Tigers' anemic rushing attack finished last in the Big Eight. Missouri lost to Indiana, Oklahoma and Nebraska by a combined score of 182-38.

NEBRASKA

Good Team Times: The Huskers led the nation in rushing until the last week of the regular season. Despite finishing second to Northern Illinois, Nebraska led the Big Eight in rushing. It also led the league in total offense, scoring offense, pass defense, total de-

fense, scoring defense and kickoff returns. Nebraska led the nation in kickoff returns, averaging 27.8 yards on 26 returns and surpassed the 50-point mark three times with the highest point total coming against Missouri, a 69-21 romp.

Good Player Times: Tyrone Hughes was third in the nation in kickoff returns, averaging 29.06 yards on 18 returns for a school-record 523 yards. Hughes was named Big Eight Offensive Player of the Week following the 45-8 win over Kansas State. Mickey Joseph was given that honor twice. Pat Tyrance and Kenny Walker were named Big Eight Defensive Players of the Week. Walker was named to almost every All-American list. Kicker Gregg Barrios broke almost every school kicking record. Reggie Cooper shattered the school's unassisted tackles mark by a defensive back. Bruce Pickens established a new high for most sacks by a defensive back in a season. Tight end Johnny Mitchell was the first Husker freshman to win all-conference honors since Tom Novak in 1946.

Bad Times: Ended the season by losing three of the last four games. Gave up 45 points in consecutive losses to Oklahoma and Georgia Tech. Dropped to No. 24 in the final Top 25 poll. Finished the regular season at No. 19, the lowest ranking since 1981. Withstood constant criticism of the so-called weak schedule. Gave up 27 points in the fourth quarter in a 27-12 loss to Colorado that determined the Big Eight champion. Lost three of four appearances on national television.

OKLAHOMA

Good Team Times: The Sooners hammered Nebraska 45-10 to close out the year at 8-3. OU returned from its year-long television ban by playing in five nationally televised contests. It leaped to a 5-0 start and a ranking of No. 4 by the Associated Press after not even being picked to not even make the Top 25, and finished second in the league and fifth in the nation in rushing offense. A 36.5 scoring average earned OU a place in the nation's Top 10. It gave up an average of 15.8 points per game, also good enough for a national Top 10 spot.

Good Player Times: Quarterback Cale Gundy was named Big Eight Offensive Newcomer of the Year. Brad Reddell led the league in punting. R.D. Lashar became the conference's all-



time kick-scoring leader. Tom Backes, Frank Blevins, Scott Evans and James Goode participated in the Blue-Gray game. The quartet accounted for 20 tackles, two quarterback sacks, an interception and a fumble recovery. Evans was named the Blue team's MVP after intercepting a pass and thwarting a last-minute Gray drive. Blevins stopped the Gray on fourth-and-goal at the 1 and caused a fumble with a sack, which was recovered by Backes.

Bad Times: Another last-minute loss to Texas. An upset home loss to Iowa State the following week. A three-game losing streak, the longest in 25 years. Dropped out of the Top 25 after flirting with the top spot. No bowl for the second straight year due to NCAA probation.

OKLAHOMA STATE

Good Team Times: There weren't many. A 23-17 road win over Iowa State may have partially salvaged the season for Pat Jones' 4-7 squad. The Cowboys opened the year with a 10-3 win over recruiting rival Tulsa. OSU trailed Oklahoma by a point at half-time, but collapsed in the second half.

Good Player Times: Hudson fin-

Straw became only the 10th player in conference history to throw for more than 5,000 career yards.

ished 16th in the league in career rushing. Cary Blanchard finished second to R.D. Lashar in the career kick-scoring category. Hudson, Blanchard, receiver Curtis Mayfield and lineman Scott Webb played in the Blue-Gray game. Blanchard provided the winning margin with a fourth-quarter field goal.

Bad Times: Kansas State beat OSU to end its losing streak against Big Eight opponents. The Aggies were beaten 50-7 by Florida. It was last in the Big Eight in total offense and lost at home to Kansas in the final minute. An ill-advised time-out allowed Oklahoma to complete a desperation touchdown pass just before halftime.

It was a strange and wonderful season for the Big Eight. In all, conference teams went 6-0 in games against members of the Pacific 10. Big Eight teams grabbed headlines across the nation as players and squads earned praise and honors.

How does the future look for the conference? Several stars, such as Gundy and Hagan, will return in 1991. So, if you're expecting the quality of football in the Big Eight to drop, you may be waiting a long time. ■

THE BUZZER RULES?

"Dreyer gets the ball, down by two with not much time left. He dribbles to the corner. .5.. .4.. .3..... shoots the three...BUZZZZZZZ...It's good! ...Huskers win...the place goes wild..."

Fantasies like this one are played out repeatedly by hoopsters in driveways and playgrounds across the country. The "hero" pretends that he shoots the winning basket at the buzzer in front of an adoring home crowd. But is he really doing it right?

In other words, what role does the horn play in determining whether a last-second shot counts? This is a question that confuses many basketball spectators, so let's clear it up once and for all.

In the college game, the buzzer is the important factor. According to NCAA rules, the sounding of the horn determines when a half or overtime period ends. As long as the ball leaves a shooter's hands before the horn blares, it qualifies as a legal shot attempt.

The 45-second shot clock has the same guidelines. If the clock shows "00" but the horn hasn't yet sounded, time has not officially expired.

In the NBA, each period ends when the clock shows 00.0. The buzzer is merely an audio signal to alert players, coaches, officials and fans that the quarter is indeed over. The red light mounted behind each basket also comes on when the horn sounds. This provides a visual aid for everyone involved.

The NBA 24-second shot clock has similar rules. If a player releases the ball just after the clock shows "00" but a split-second before the horn sounds, a successful basket is disallowed.

Can someone explain to me why there is a difference between the NCAA and NBA interpretation of the priority of the clock versus the horn? Wouldn't it make sense for the rules committees of both organizations to eliminate these irritating differences?

When a youngster wants to play the role of a college player shooting that last-second game-winning basket, he should be sure to add a zero to the countdown to make the shot even more dramatic: "5.. .4.. .3... 2.. .1.. .0.. he shoots.. BUZZZZZZZ.. .SWISH!"



THE PRINCIPLE OF VERTICALITY

Imagine this familiar scene in a neighborhood pickup game. A player drives to the hoop, collides with a defender and misses the shot. The shooter calls the foul, the defender calls charging and the offensive player responds with, "No way. . .you weren't stationary."

Is this always the criterion for determining whether a foul is charging (on the offense) or blocking (a defensive foul)? If the defender is

not perfectly still, should blocking always be called when there is significant contact?

Not necessarily. The NCAA emphasizes that officials should recognize the "principle of verticality." In other words, blocking **should not** automatically be the call if a defender leaves the ground and then makes contact with a driving offensive player.

For this principle to apply, the defender must have had both feet on the floor facing the driving offensive player. The defender is entitled to that space, not only on the floor, but vertically up toward the ceiling. He is then permitted to jump straight up or raise his arms in his "vertical space," and any resulting contact should not be his fault.

In the past, officials have been guilty of overprotecting offensive players in this situation, and the NCAA is aware of that. So in their 1991 Rule Book, they included a section that stresses a defender's right to jump or extend his arms in his vertical plane. They mention that it is better to have a "no call," than instinctively charge a defender with the foul who has abided by the principle of verticality.

When does this principle not apply? Consider the case of a point guard who penetrates the defense and leaps into the air. A defender subsequently moves into his path, raises his arms and makes contact with the airborne player. Even though the defender followed all the rules of verticality, he is guilty of the blocking foul. Once a player is "in flight," a defender is not allowed to position himself so that contact cannot be avoided by the soaring offensive player.

This year, it will be interesting to see if officials do give defenders equal protection under the principle of verticality. Good defense does win championships (as evidenced by Stacey Augmon of the Running Rebels of UNLV) and these players should not be penalized when they work hard and do their jobs well.

Barry Dreyer is the president and founder of **TeachMeSports**, an Atlanta-based company that conducts seminars on how to be an informed spectator of basketball, football and baseball. For more information call (800) 726-3442. ■

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By Dirk Maley



Nebraska's volleyball team saw its second consecutive Final Four berth abruptly halted by Pacific. It was only Nebraska's third defeat of the season.

Around the Horn — NU Athletics

The Nebraska football team may have fallen short in its bid to win a Big Eight title in 1990, but not the NU volleyball team.

NU, coached by Terry Pettit, won the conference volleyball title, its 15th, with a perfect 12-0 mark. Following regular-season play, NU, seeded first, beat Kansas and Colorado to win the four-team Big Eight Tournament in Omaha.

NU then hosted and beat Miami of Ohio 15-3, 15-9, 15-9 in first-round action in the 1990 NCAA Volleyball Tournament to advance to Mideast Regional play.

In the regional, played in Lincoln, NU knocked off Pittsburgh (15-7, 15-11, 15-7) to earn a spot in the regional

finals against undefeated Penn State, which advanced with a win over Wisconsin.

NU started off shaky against Penn State, falling behind 12-4 in the first game, but rallied to win the game 15-12. NU went on to win the second game 16-14 after falling behind 10-5. Penn State took the third game by five points, but NU won the match after taking the fourth game 15-5. With the win, NU earned its second straight Final Four berth.

In Final Four competition, NU finished its season on a disappointing note, losing to Pacific in four games. Of NU's three losses on the season, two were to Pacific. The other was to Stanford. Pacific advanced to the

championship match, only to lose to top-ranked UCLA.

In 1990, two members of NU's volleyball team earned All-America honors: senior setter Val Novak from Oak Lawn, Ill., and junior outside hitter Janet Kruse from Fort Calhoun, Neb. Novak, by the way, was named the Big Eight Player of the Year in 1990.

Novak, Kruse and the other members of the NU volleyball team received great fan support this past season.

In 1990, NU became the first volleyball program in collegiate history to top the 50,000 mark in total attendance. In 18 home appearances, NU attracted 54,554 fans, or 3,031 per match.

On a final volleyball note, several members of this year's team deserve

recognition for a job well done in the classroom.

Four members of the team were named to the Big Eight's first-team, All-Academic squad, including: Kruse, who carries a perfect 4.0 grade point average in biological science; Linda Barsness, a senior outside hitter from Rochester, Minn., who has a 3.22 GPA in exercise science; Becky Bolli, a senior defensive specialist from Burwell, Neb., 4.0 in exercise science; and Cris Hall, a junior outside hitter from Chanute, Kan., 3.29 in pre-physical therapy.

Kruse also earned first-team status on the 1990 GTE Academic All-American volleyball squad. In fact, she was named the GTE Academic All-American of the Year in the university division.

ON THE GRIDIRON... While certain members of the volleyball team deserve congratulations for their classroom achievements, so do certain members of the Cornhusker football team.

Seven members of Tom Osborne's 1990 team earned first-team recognition on the 1990 Phillips 66 Academic All-Big Eight football team. Three Huskers were repeat selections to the team: Pat Tyrance, senior inside linebacker from Omaha, who has a 3.48 GPA in pre-medicine; Jim Wanek, senior offensive guard from Aurora, Neb., 3.88 in speech communications; and Mike Stigge, sophomore punter from Washington, Kan., 3.75 in pre-veterinary medicine. Making the squad for the first time were: David Edeal, senior center from Loomis, Neb., 3.91 in mechanical engineering; Pat Engelbert, junior middle guard from Columbus, Neb., 3.48 in civil engineering; Mike Petko, junior inside linebacker from Anaheim, Calif., 3.36 in economics; and Kenny Walker, senior defensive tackle from Crane, Texas, 3.10 in art.

To qualify for the team, athletes had to have at least a 3.0 GPA in the previous academic year and be a first- or second-team player.

Nine other Huskers made the honor roll, including: Trev Alberts, freshman outside linebacker from Cedar Falls, Iowa, 3.34 in business administration; Gregg Barrios, senior kicker from Omaha, 3.12 in criminal justice; Troy Branch, freshman inside linebacker from Camden, N.J., 3.13 in speech communications; Terris Chorney, sophomore center from Ituna,

Saskatchewan, Canada, 3.39 in civil engineering; Mike Grant, junior quarterback from Tampa, Fla., 3.07 in speech communications; Tim Johnk, junior fullback from Schuyler, Neb., 3.06 in elementary education; Daryl Leise, junior tight end from Omaha, 3.46 in business administration; David White, sophomore outside linebacker from New Orleans, 3.14 in pre-medicine; and Bill Ziegelbein, junior center from Polk, Neb., 3.20 in mechanical engineering.

Of the football players we've listed, four deserve extra recognition — Tyrance, Edeal, Wanek and Engelbert, all of whom earned spots on the GTE Academic All-American football team. Tyrance, Edeal and Wanek were named to the first team, while Engelbert was named to the second team.

ON THE MAT... Several members of NU's wrestling team opened the season on a positive note at the Wyoming Open in Laramie, Wyo., most notably 118-pounder Jeremie Eckley, 177-pounder Corey Olson, 190-pounder Chris Nelson and heavyweight Sonny Manley, all of whom won indi-

vidual titles. NU's Todd Enger finished second in the 158-pound class, Tommy Robbins was fourth in the 177-pound class, and Jamie Penning came in sixth in the 158-pound class.

Several NU wrestlers also did quite well in the 46-team Las Vegas Invitational. Although no NU wrestlers won individual titles, two Huskers did finish second — Jason Kelber in the 126-pound weight class and Olson in the 177-pound division. Senior Dave Droegemueller turned in one of his best performances ever in finishing third in the 134-pound class.

As a team, NU finished fourth in the Las Vegas Invitational behind Oklahoma State, Iowa State and Arizona State.

In other wrestling news, two high school grapplers have signed letters-of-intent to attend and compete for Nebraska next season. They are: Scott Schlucter, a 118-pounder from Edmond, Okla., and Chad Nelson, a 171-pounder from Stewartville, Minn.

According to NU Coach Tim Neumann, both are among the top 10 recruits in the country. Schlucter is a



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two-time state and three-time U.S.A. Wrestling Junior Nationals champion. Nelson is also a two-time state champion who finished third at the junior national championships.

IN THE WATER...The NU men's team opened its season with a dual win over South Dakota in Lincoln while the NU women's team opened the 1990-91 season with a dual win over Wyoming in Laramie.

For the men, freshmen Jonathan Kerr and Justin Switzer each won two events in helping NU post a 153-56 victory over South Dakota. Kerr, from Edinburgh, Scotland, won the 200 individual medley and 200 backstroke while Switzer, from Beaumont, Texas, won the 500 and 1,000 freestyle events.

For the women, Amy Aarsen, Lynne Braddock and Janell Garcia led the way as NU beat Wyoming 170-116. Aarsen won both the 1- and 3-meter diving events and qualified for the NCAA Diving Prequalification Meet with her scores. Braddock won the 100 freestyle while Garcia won the 500 freestyle.

After beating Wyoming to open its

season, the NU women's team posted dual victories over Colorado State (179-121) and Northwestern (171-130), then won the Husker Open over a field that included Colorado State, Wyoming, Air Force, St. Olaf, Northern Colorado and South Dakota. NU won 15 of the 20 events in the competition and scored 1,024 team points to finish well ahead of Colorado State, which finished second with 860 points.

Setting Husker Open records was Aarsen, who won both the 1- and 3-meter diving competitions, and the 200 freestyle relay team of Braddock, Chris Frederick, Chris Gmeiner and Mindy Matheny, which posted a winning time of 1:34.22.

ON THE DIAMOND...In other recruiting news, NU baseball coach John Sanders has announced that six players have signed national letters-of-intent to attend and compete for Nebraska. The six were signed during the Nov. 14-21 early signing period.

The high school signees include outfielder/pitcher Ray Benjamin, brother of former Husker standout

Bobby Benjamin of Columbus, Ohio, and Derek Michelson, a pitcher from Norfolk, Neb.

The other four signees, all junior college transfers, are: Steve Boyd, a pitcher from Hastings, Neb. (Central Arizona College); Jeff Murphy, a catcher from Las Vegas (Central Arizona); Patrick Reed, an outfielder from San Leandro, Calif. (Laney College); and Tom Samuels, a pitcher from Shiloh, N.J. (Gloucester County College).

"We feel very positive that these people will do well both academically and athletically and that they are the type of people who will blend nicely into our program," Sanders said.

ON THE TRACK...Turning to cross country, two runners representing Nebraska, Joe Kirby and Fran ten Bensel, competed in the NCAA Championships held last November in Knoxville, Tenn. Kirby is a senior from Jefferson City, Mo., while ten Bensel is a sophomore from Arapahoe, Neb.

Kirby was an automatic qualifier for the NCAA Championships by virtue of finishing as the top runner for a non-qualifying team at the District V meet in Springfield, Mo. He finished fourth overall after covering the men's 10,000-meter course in 30:29.3.

Ten Bensel earned an at-large berth to run in the NCAA Championships after finishing fifth in the women's portion of the District V meet in Springfield. She covered the 5,000-meter course in 17:8.4.

At the NCAA Championships, Kirby finished 149th out of a field of 181 runners, and ten Bensel placed 36th out of 179 contestants. Kirby would have likely contended for Top 10 honors, but suffered from a side ache at the 1-mile mark.

This past season, NU's men's cross country team finished third at the Big Eight Championships, while NU's women's team finished fourth. The men finished behind Iowa State and Kansas State while the women finished behind Iowa State, Kansas State and Colorado.

Kirby finished fourth individually to lead the Husker men. David Itteff was the next Husker to cross the finish line in 11th place.

Ten Bensel finished eighth to lead the NU women at the Big Eight Championships. Teammate Lisa Graham, from Carlsbad, N.M., placed ninth. ■



Senior Joe Kirby finished fourth at the District V meet, but pain kept him from doing well at the NCAA Championships.

By Mike Babcock

A Turning Point

AFTER A DISAPPOINTING 1990 SEASON, OSBORNE PLANS TO TAKE A HARD LOOK AT OFFENSIVE PHILOSOPHY.

Nebraska's 1990 football season might have come to an end long before a 45-21 loss to Georgia Tech in the Florida Citrus Bowl.

It might have ended soon after Mickey Joseph threw a 46-yard touchdown pass to Johnny Mitchell with 2:38 remaining in the third quarter of the Cornhuskers' game against Colorado.

The Buffaloes responded with a 10-play, 71-yard touchdown drive, which included two third-down-and-7 conversions and signaled a significant shift in the game's emotion. Colorado, of course, went on to win 27-12.

That might have been the premature end to a season during which Nebraska once entertained thoughts of playing for a national championship in the Orange Bowl on New Year's night. When that was no longer a possibility, the Cornhuskers might have become shadows of what they had been. The truth is, the Nebraska that played Georgia Tech in Orlando, Fla., on New Year's Day wasn't the same team that had Colorado down 12-0 after three quarters.

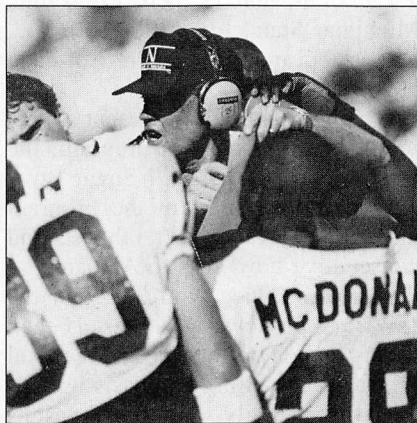
Bill Walsh, the former San Francisco 49ers head coach who's now a football analyst for NBC television, might have captured the essence of 1990. Cornhusker Coach Tom Osborne said after the Citrus Bowl game. Walsh said, "there is such an emphasis on being No. 1 that when you no longer think you can play for No. 1, even though you try hard, you lose a certain sharpness."

"If you're in a program that number one, appears to be in question, that's not a problem. But you can see the case in the Citrus Bowl and in other bowls, too, that a team can be going pretty good and then no longer have a championship hope and lose something."

So it was for Osborne's 18th team.

"We played well in eight games, with a few momentary lapses, then we lost confidence and momentum in our last four games," he said.

After the loss to Colorado, Nebraska won a sleepwalk against overmatched Kansas and suffered an embarrassing



Osborne

loss against Oklahoma. The Cornhuskers tried hard to regroup for Georgia Tech, which still aspired to winning a national championship. But to no avail. The Citrus Bowl loss was the third-worst in Nebraska history.

Duke defeated Nebraska 34-7 in the 1955 Orange Bowl, the same score by which Alabama defeated the Cornhuskers in the 1967 Sugar Bowl. Florida State also beat Nebraska by 24 points, 41-17 in the 1990 Fiesta Bowl. At times during the Citrus Bowl game, "it looked like Florida State all over again," Cornhusker defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said during post-game interviews.

As was the case in the Fiesta Bowl loss to Florida State, the forward pass was a significant factor in Nebraska's undoing. It wasn't so much the Cornhuskers' inability to pass, however, as it was their inability to defend themselves against the pass.

"It would be hard to be that simplistic, but it's obviously one of the things we need to do better," said Osborne.

The statistics reinforced that. Georgia Tech quarterback Shawn Jones completed 16 of 23 passes for 277 yards and two touchdowns. But there was more to it.

Nebraska's defense was kept off-balance throughout the game by the Yellow Jackets' ability to make big plays off the pass. Early in the second quarter, after a holding penalty left Georgia Tech with a third-and-20 from

the Nebraska 47-yard line, Jones passed to split end Brent Goolsby for 27 yards and a first down. A penalty and three plays — two of them pass completions — later, the Yellow Jackets led 21-0. The touchdown also came on a pass, but the critical play during the series was the third-down completion.

Midway through the third quarter, Jones escaped a similar situation by completing a 23-yard pass to flanker Jerry Gilchrist on a third-and-18 from the Nebraska 43-yard line. And as was the case in the second quarter, Georgia Tech wasted no time in turning its good fortune into six points.

Had Nebraska been able to prevent the big play in either of those situations, the game's emotion might have turned in the Cornhuskers' favor. Instead, they fell further behind.

Defense was expected to be Nebraska's strength this season, and it was, for the most part, until the fourth quarter of the Colorado game.

Against Georgia Tech, "the defense made a lot of good plays, but there were four or five major letdowns, breakdowns, whatever, and that was enough," Osborne said. "I thought our run defense was very good, for the most part. But even there, we gave up 46- and 57-yard runs, and that was after we had the back wrapped up and didn't tackle him."

Jones was a key to the Yellow Jackets' success. The sophomore from Thomasville, Ga., "is an exceptional player," said Osborne. "He throws well, has speed and confidence. We had a choice of either playing him man-to-man or zone or a combination of both, and for the most part, we had the right scheme. But two times we broke coverage, and there's no excuse for not lining up correctly at this time of the season."

Nebraska paid dearly for its defensive lapses. "It's just a shame we couldn't hold up our end. Overall, I thought our kids played hard. But I was really discouraged we had so many breakdowns," said McBride.

Still, the defense didn't quit, according to McBride. Effort might have been lacking in the loss to Oklahoma and even the victory against Kansas.

"I didn't feel real strong about our character in those two games," he said. Against Georgia Tech, however, "I just felt like there was a different attitude."

Strong safety Reggie Cooper made eight tackles, including five unassisted, despite being dinged during the first half. "His head was swollen on the side," McBride said. "He played the second half on guts."

Nebraska's offensive problems against Georgia Tech were more easily understood, if for no other reason than the fact that Joseph was watching from the sideline. Jones' play underscored the value to an offense of an experienced and confident quarterback.

Tom Haase replaced Mike Grant in the second quarter and completed 14 of 21 passes for 209 yards and two touchdowns. "For the amount of playing time he'd had, he did very well," said Osborne.

The cause of Joseph's absence also was a factor. His injury added to the emotional letdown that followed the loss to Colorado.

It's impossible to say how good Nebraska was in 1990. The Cornhuskers' 9-3 record was no better of a gauge than

their place in the final wire service ratings: 19th in the United Press International coaches' poll and 24th in the Associated Press media rankings.

You'd think Nebraska could have made short work of some teams ranked ahead of it, among them Louisville, Michigan State, Iowa, Southern Cal, Mississippi and Virginia. Pre-Colorado Nebraska, anyway.

This season might represent a turning point in Osborne's program, the way the loss in the 1967 Sugar Bowl was a turning point in the program under Bob Devaney. After that second consecutive bowl loss to Alabama — the Crimson Tide won 38-27 in the 1966 Orange Bowl — Nebraska began to rely less on brute force and more on speed. Its recruiting emphasis was altered accordingly, and four seasons later, the Cornhuskers won the first of back-to-back national championships.

Osborne plans to take a hard look at his offensive philosophy as well as personnel. Next season, "whoever we have play is going to have to play better," he said. "We played and lost to some very good teams."

Georgia Tech and Colorado were

both declared national champion, the Yellow Jackets by UPI, the Buffaloes by AP and just about every other poll. Oklahoma finished No. 17 in the AP rankings.

"We should have won one or two of those games, and yet, we didn't," Osborne said. "There were just too many mistakes."

Nebraska won at least nine games and played in a bowl for the 22nd consecutive season to begin the 1990s. Until the final 17 minutes or so of the Colorado game, the Cornhuskers were regarded as national championship contenders. Then things came undone.

To judge the team on the basis of the final four games, however, is unfair. "We're not that bad of a football team," McBride said minutes after the loss.

The Yellow Jackets had a mission. They played with an emotion Nebraska never really had after its loss to Colorado.

"Success breeds success, and they had a lot of good things happen during the season," said Osborne.

The same could not be said of Nebraska following the 27-12 loss to Colorado. ■

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A Bitter Pill

GEORGIA TECH PROVIDED A SOUR END TO THE SEASON IN THE FLORIDA CITRUS BOWL.

By Kevin Henry

Same song, fourth verse. For the fourth consecutive year, Nebraska entered postseason play hoping for a win. For the fourth consecutive year, the Huskers headed back to Lincoln with a loss.

Husker coaches and fans hoped that this bowl trip would be different. Miami and Florida State, the spectres of the last three bowl losses, were busy inflicting their wrath on Texas and Penn State. Nebraska's opponent was Georgia Tech, the ACC champion and the only school to survive the season without sustaining a loss.

Both teams entered the 45th Florida Citrus Bowl with something to prove. Nebraska wanted to show the nation that it was better than its No. 19 rating. Georgia Tech wanted enough respect to be crowned the 1991 national champion. Georgia Tech earned plenty of respect in its 45-21 win over the Huskers, but enough only to earn co-champion status. Top-ranked Colorado "clipped" Notre Dame 10-9, thanks to a penalty called on Raghieb Ismail's punt return for a touchdown late in the game.

Nebraska headed to Orlando for the first time in its history and with the new bowl came a new attitude. Coaches worked their players harder than before. Conditioning and fundamentals were stressed again and again. As practice sessions concluded, Tom Osborne said that this was his most prepared bowl squad.

Nebraska, wearing all white for the first time since 1966, kicked off to open the game. Shawn Jones, the slinky sophomore quarterback that had Husker coaches worried, justified those concerns on the fourth play. Escaping the grasp of Pat Engelbert, Jones weaved his way through defenders for 46 yards. After gaining 1 yard on two plays,

Jones came through again, this time on a 9-yard quarterback draw that took Tech to the Nebraska 4. Two, 2-yard bursts by fullback Stefen Scotton yielded the first touchdown of the game. Record-breaking kicker Scott Sisson booted the PAT and the Huskers were down 7-0 with 11:45 left in the first quarter.

Nebraska's offense, with Mike Grant replacing the injured Mickey Joseph at quarterback, could only generate 5 yards

on three tries. After Mike Stigge's punt, Georgia Tech took possession at its own 40. On the first play, tailback William Bell fumbled and recovered the ball for a 5-yard loss. Third down saw Kenny Walker smash Jones, causing a fumble. Amidst a host of Huskers, Tech recovered the ball for a 4-yard loss, eerie flashback to the Oklahoma clash when OU repeatedly fumbled the ball but was able to recover, continually thwarting Nebraska chances for good

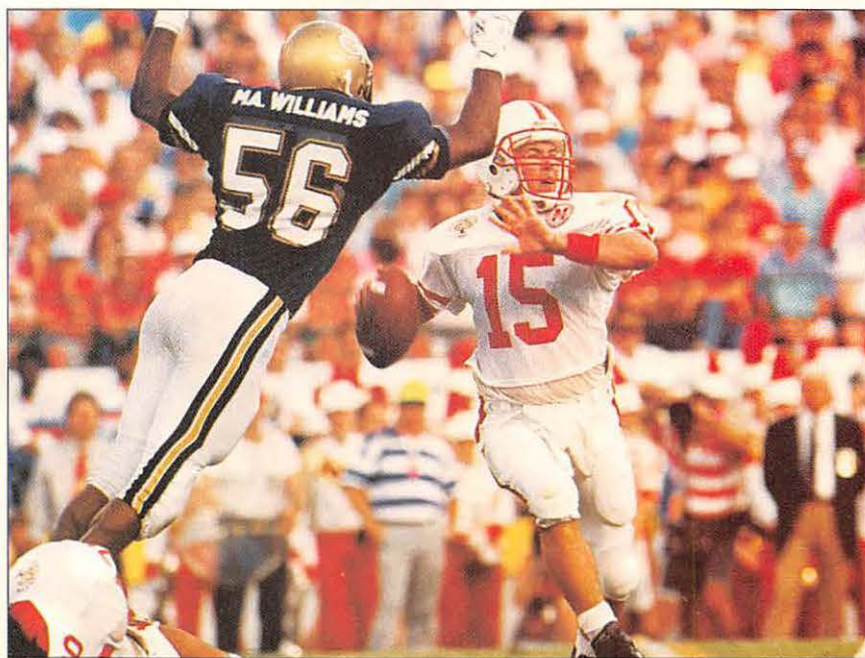


Turner (22) accounted for 134 yards of total offense and averaged 10.5 yards per carry against Tech's rigid defense.

field position and momentum. Now, 1,400 miles and five weeks later, it seemed to look like a rerun.

Nebraska went three-and-out again and Georgia Tech found itself on its own 34. Jones hit Bobby Rodriguez along the left sidelines for a 12-yard gain. A 7-yard run by Scotton moved

the ball into Husker territory for the second time, but Nebraska slammed the door quickly. Jones dropped back to pass and, feeling heat from Walker again, rolled to his left. Under pressure, Jones threw an ill-advised pass that was picked off by Bruce Pickens at the Nebraska 22.



Whether it was Mike Grant (top) or Tom Haase (bottom), Tech's defense applied unmerciful pressure.

Once again, Nebraska's offense was shut down. Fullback Omar Soto, replacing the suspended Lance Lewis, gained 6 on first down, but the next two plays netted no yards.

Georgia Tech took to the air again. Jones hit Jeff Wright for a 3-yard gain and, on third-and-7, Jones hit Tom Covington over the middle. As the tight end neared the first down marker, Mike Croel smacked him inches short of the marker, forcing a Tech punt.

Taking the ball at its own 32, Nebraska's offense finally clicked. Scott Baldwin zoomed for 11 yards on two carries, giving the Huskers their first, first down of the game at the 1:55 mark. Grant gained 2 on the option, but was sacked on the next play for an 11-yard loss. Facing third-and-19, Grant overthrew Baldwin and Stigge was called upon for the fourth time.

Georgia Tech had just enough time left in the quarter to launch a bomb. Despite good coverage from Pickens, Jones found Rodriguez for a 46-yard play and Tech was at the Nebraska 18 as the quarter expired. The score was only 7-0, but the Rambling Wreck was dominating the game statistically. It had eight first downs to Nebraska's one and led the Huskers in passing yardage 69-0.

Once again, Nebraska's defense stiffened. Scotton was thrown for a 3-yard loss by a swarm of Huskers and Jones was sacked by Mike Petko for another 5 yards. Sisson's 37-yard field goal sailed wide, preserving the 7-0 score.

Then disaster struck. Baldwin fumbled after a short gain and Coleman Rudolph recovered for Tech. Jones connected with Emmett Merchant on two passes, the second was a 22-yard touchdown grab just over Tyrone Byrd and suddenly it was 14-0.

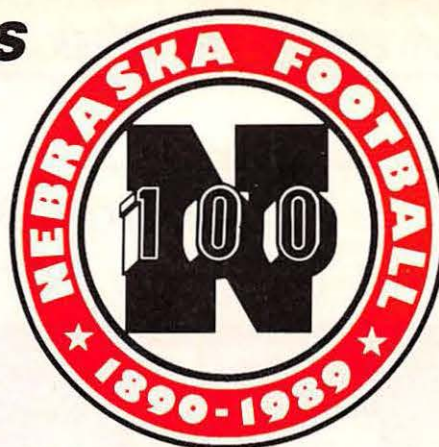
Tom Haase came in at quarterback, but the Husker offense still could not start its engines. Stigge punted to Tech's 48, where a fair catch was signalled. Baldwin crashed into the receiver and drew a 15-yard penalty. Tech set up shop at the Husker 37.

Penalties backed Tech into a hole, but Jones worked his magic again. Facing third-and-21, Jones connected with Brent Goolsby for 27 yards. Four plays later, Jones lofted the ball to a wide-

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open Bell for a 2-yard score and a 21-0 lead. Chants of "We're No. 1" could be heard from the Citrus Bowl-record crowd of 72,328, most of whom were rooting for the ACC champs.

Taking over at his own 29, Haase was sacked for a 3-yard loss to the delight of the black-and-gold-clad audience. On the next play, Haase found freshman sensation Johnny Mitchell for a 31-yard gain and the Huskers' second first down of the contest. Nate Turner ran for 13 on a reverse for another first down. Haase and Mitchell teamed up for a 30-yard score on the next play and, with Gregg Barrios adding the point after, Nebraska trailed 21-7 with 6:21 left.

On Tech's second play, Curtis Cotton stuck Anthony Rice, forcing a fumble. Pickens pounced on the ball at midfield as the Nebraska fans cheered. Going back to the air, Haase just overthrew Jon Bostick on first down. Returning to its ground game, freshman I-back Derek Brown rushed for a 50-yard touchdown along the left sideline — the longest run allowed by Georgia Tech on the season. Barrios' PAT pulled the Huskers to within 21-14.

Feeling pressure, Tech went to its running game. Bell gained 8 on two rushes and, on third-and-2, Bell was called on again. Byrd met Bell near the first down and drove him back, forcing Tech to punt. As Tech punter Bill Weaver kicked, Croel nudged him, drawing the flag. Downfield, Turner and Tyrone Hughes bobbled the punt and Jay Martin recovered for the Yellow Jackets. Tech declined the penalty and took over at the Nebraska 23. After completing his last nine passes, Jones missed two consecutive attempts and

After entering the game in the second quarter, Haase guided the offense to three touchdowns.



Sisson nailed a 37-yard field goal, widening the lead to 24-14. The 24 points were the most that Nebraska had allowed in a half all year. The 24 points sounded another ominous note. Only twice during the season had the Huskers allowed that many points — they lost both games.

Nebraska received to open the second half. Brown and Haase starred during

the initial drive. Between them, they moved the ball to Tech's 37. From there, Haase lofted a pass to Mitchell which fell incomplete, but Tech's All-American free safety, Ken Swilling, was flagged for interference, moving the ball to the 22. Three plays netted 4 yards and Barrios was called on for a 34-yard try. Keith Holmes leaped high

continued on page 26

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Haase, Croel Share Honor

In an otherwise dismal loss to Georgia Tech, reserve quarterback Tom Haase shined for the Nebraska offense.

The 6-foot, 180-pound junior from Aurora, Neb., completed only two of seven passes for 8 yards and one interception in regular-season games, but exploded against Tech's touted pass defense. Haase completed 14 of his 21 attempts for 209 yards and two touchdowns against the Yellow Jackets.

Haase replaced the ineffective Mike Grant near the beginning of the second quarter. With the Huskers facing a 21-0 deficit, Haase went to work. After being sacked for a 3-yard loss, Haase found tight end Johnny Mitchell for a 31-yard gain. Two plays later, Haase rolled to his left and found Mitchell in the end zone for a 30-yard score.

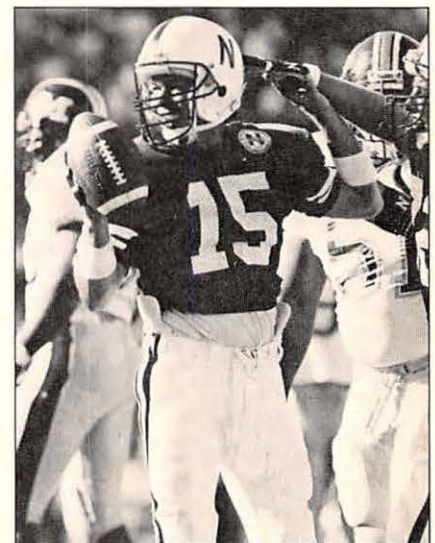
In the second half, Haase was brilliant. He completed his first eight passes, one of which was a touchdown of 21 yards to tight end William Washington. That score pulled Nebraska to within 10 points (31-21) and would be the last threat of the day for the Big Red of the North.

On defense, Mike Croel earned the final Player of the Week honor with a nine-tackle effort.



Mike Croel

The 6-3, 225-pound senior outside linebacker from Sudbury, Mass., had four unassisted and five assisted stops on the day. One of those four unassisted stops was for a 5-yard loss. Croel came through to deck Georgia Tech quarterback Shawn Jones. Although Jones had faked two handoffs to try to fool the defense, Croel stayed focused and wrapped up the elusive signal-caller.



Tom Haase

The player that some feel might be the first pick in the upcoming NFL draft did nothing to discourage those notions. His hustle and determination payed off as he led the team in tackles in the Citrus Bowl.

For the season, Croel finished with 70 total tackles, including 13 for 69 yards in losses, second only on the team to Kenny Walker. ■

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Bostick went all out in an attempt to haul in this pass. That effort was indicative of the whole team's performance, according to Osborne.

continued from page 23

into the air and swatted down the attempt for his second block of the year.

With momentum in his corner, Jones threw to Bell for a 30-yard gain, moving the ball into Husker territory. After Engelbert sacked the elusive Jones, Tech faced third-and-18, but Jones was up to the challenge again. He found Jerry Gilchrist for a 23-yard gain. The play seemed to take the wind out of Nebraska. Bell burst for 19 and, on first-and-goal from the 1, Jones faked the pass and jogged into the end zone untouched for a score. An eight-play, 78-yard drive saw the lead balloon to 31-14.

After trading punts, Nebraska was at midfield with 1:25 remaining in the quarter. Turner raced for 9 and Haase found Turner for 16 more on the next play. Leodis Flowers' first carry of the game netted 4 yards, then Haase found William Washington for a 21-yard touchdown. It was Washington's first reception as a Husker and Haase's sec-

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ond score of the day. The Huskers were within 10 (31-21) with :30 left in the period. As the quarter ended, Haase had completed seven of nine passes for 121 yards and two scores.

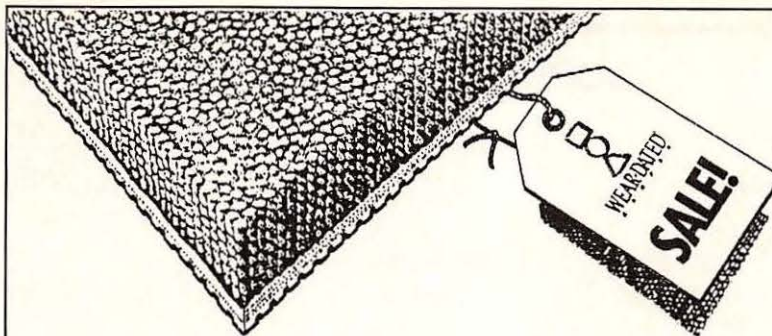
The teams once again traded punts and Tech found itself at its 36. After Bell gained a yard, Jones hit Steve Lester for a 39-yard gain. Three Bell rushes resulted in 24 yards and a touchdown. Sisson booted the PAT and Tech was back up by 17.

It was do-or-die time for Nebraska. On the first play, Mitchell grabbed a Haase pass over two Tech defenders for a 32-yard gain. Brown picked up 13 to move the ball to the Tech 15. On first down, Haase threw his first incomplection of the half. Second down saw Haase pitch out of bounds for a 3-yard loss. Third down brought another incomplection. Osborne and his staff faced a dilemma: Would it be a short field goal or go for the touchdown? They decided on the latter. Haase was sacked on a safety blitz by Thomas Balkcom for a 10-yard loss.

While many felt the game was over, Tech wanted to earn more respect. Jones hit Merchant for 16 yards and then came the backbreaker. On first down from the Tech 43, Bell plunged into the middle for a decent gain. It appeared that he had been stopped cold by four Nebraska defenders, but the sophomore tailback spun out of their grasps and raced 57 yards and an unbelievable scoring run. Suddenly the Yellow Jackets' lead was 24 and the party in Atlanta started.

Nebraska uttered one last gasp. Haase dodged tacklers and connected with Mitchell for 35 yards. After a holding penalty, Haase hit Mitchell for 9, but two incomplections and a 6-yard scamper by Haase weren't enough. Georgia Tech was content to run out the clock and race to the nearest television set to root for Notre Dame against Colorado in the Orange Bowl. Tech was hoping that history would repeat itself. The last national champion to come from the ACC was Clemson. The Tigers won the title by beating Nebraska in the 1982 Orange Bowl, 22-15.

For Tech, history did not repeat; for Nebraska, it did — for the fourth straight year. ■



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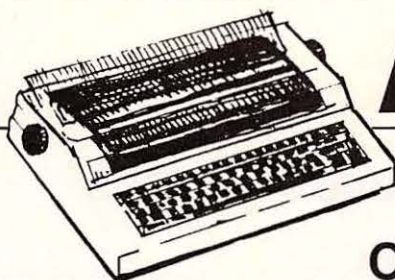
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SCORING SUMMARY

Nebraska	0	14	7	0.....21
Ga. Tech	7	17	7	14.....45

GT — Scotton 2 run (Sisson kick).
 GT — Merchant 22 pass from Jones (Sisson kick).
 GT — Bell 2 pass from Jones (Sisson kick).
 NU — Mitchell 30 pass from Haase (Barrios kick).
 NU — Brown 50 run (Barrios kick). GT — FG, Sisson 37.
 GT — Jones 1 run (Sisson kick).
 NU — Washington 21 pass from Haase (Barrios kick).
 GT — Bell 6 run (Sisson kick).
 GT — Bell 57 run (Sisson kick).

Attendance: 72,328

OFFENSIVE STATISTICS

STAT	NU	GT
First Downs	14	19
Rushes-Yards	40-126	44-190
Passing Yards	209	277
Comp-Att-Int	14-25-0	16-23-1
Return Yards	24	46
Punts-Avg.	8-39	6-40
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	2-1
Penalties-Yds	6-69	5-50
Third Downs	1-13	4-12
Time of Poss	28:30	31:30
Total Offense	65-335	67-467

NEBRASKA INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Brown — 11 rushes for 99 yards, 1 TD; Baldwin — 8 rushes for 21 yards; Turner — 2 rushes for 21 yards; Soto — 3 rushes for 6 yards; Flowers — 1 rush for 4 yards; Grant — 3 rushes for -2 yards; Haase — 92 rushes for -3 yards.

PASSING: (Completions-Attempts-Interceptions-Touchdowns-Yards) — Grant 0-4, 0, 0, 0; Haase 14-21, 0, 2, 209.

RECEIVING: Mitchell — 5 catches for 138 yards, 1 TD; Turner — 3 catches for 24 yards; Washington — 1 catch for 21 yards, 1 TD; Soto — 3 catches for 14 yards; Brown — 2 catches for 12 yards.

KICKOFF RETURNS: Brown — 4 for 95 yards; Turner — 4 for 94 yards.

PUNT RETURNS: Bostick — 3 for 11 yards; Hughes — 1 for 11 yards; Walker — 1 for 0 yards; Turner — 1 for -3

yards.

INTERCEPTION RETURNS: Pickens — 1 for 5 yards.

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS: Croel — 4 UT, 5 AT, 9 TT; Cooper — 5 UT, 3 AT, 8 TT; Engelbert — 6 UT, 1 AT, 7 TT; Petko — 3 UT, 2 AT, 5 TT; Pickens — 4 UT, 1 AT, 5 TT; Walker — 4 UT, 1 AT, 5 TT; Hill — 2 UT, 2 AT, 4 TT; Byrd — 1 UT, 2 AT, 3 TT; Legette — 3 UT, 0 AT, 3 TT; Tyrance — 3 UT, 0 AT, 3 TT; L. Anderson — 1 UT, 1 AT, 2 TT; Brungardt — 1 UT, 1 AT, 2 TT; Wightman — 1 UT, 1 AT, 2 TT; Alberts — 1 UT, 0 AT, 1 TT; M. Anderson — 1 UT, 0 AT, 1 TT; Crippen — 0 UT, 1 AT, 1 TT; Penland — 1 UT, 0 AT, 1 TT; Sims — 1 UT, 0 AT, 1 TT; Thomas — 1 UT, 0 AT, 1 TT.

TACKLES FOR LOSS: Croel 1-5; Engelbert 1-18; Hill 1-5; Petko 1-5.

FUMBLE RECOVERED: Pickens 1.



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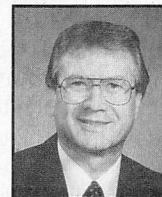
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DuWayne Eucker
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Gary Morgan
Albion



Rick Robino
Omaha



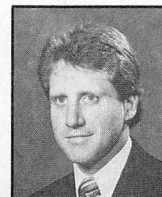
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Mike McGuire, CLU
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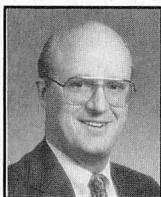
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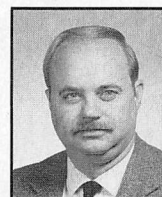
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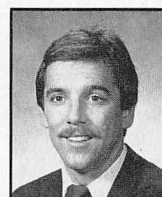
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The Best of the Best

SPORTS MAGAZINES OF AMERICA HAS SELECTED 51 OF THE FINEST PREP PLAYERS IN THE COUNTRY FOR ITS 1991 HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICAN TEAM.

By Pat Quinn

Thanks to the input of sportswriters, some of the leading college recruiting coordinators and the ever-seeking editors of schoolboy publications, Sports Magazines of America has selected 51 of the nation's most publicized and recruited players for its 1990 High School All-America team. To be sure, we were forced to omit some highly regarded names but for the obsequious football fan, whose desk is littered with the recent stories regarding national letter of intent signings, we have given him fodder for great retrospection.

Before we dissect the various and impressive pedigrees of these honorees, let's consider some recent disclosures and opinions. On the eve of the signing date, the prestigious *Prep*

Football Report concluded that if the signing went as predicted the top two recruiting classes for 1991 will belong to, in this order, Florida State and national co-champion Colorado.

The Report's summary estimated that such big names as Notre Dame will rank seventh, Texas, who, despite being devastated in the Cotton Bowl, made an impressive haul in its own talent-rich state, will rank 10th. Big Eight Conference powers Nebraska (16th) and Oklahoma (19th) are well down the line.

Conversely, *USA Today* conducted a January poll of publicized and geographically diverse prospects on what two schools they would want to be recruited by most? Notre Dame was named on a whopping 26 percent of the

ballots and Penn State on 12 percent.

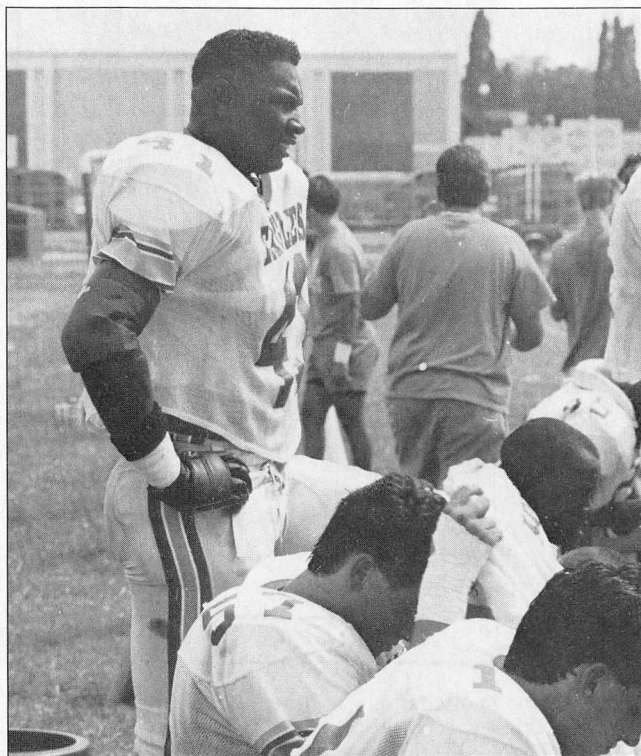
Now, if this is true, consider this hypothetical situation. Of the 108 Division 1-A schools, approximately 2,500 athletic grants will be tendered. Potentially, it gives the Fighting Irish the lead spot on 650 athletes and, if only one-third of this group goes to South Bend, it would total 215 freshman prospects...about 10 times as many scholarship as the school offered this year!

So, with these bizarre thoughts in mind, let's start at quarterback. Possibly the most decorated is Donnie Davis, who broke the national high school passing record by throwing for 4,456 yards when he completed 280 of 404 passes for 45 touchdowns. It wasn't a fluke season. He passed for 3,860 yards as a junior. A good student, too, he committed to Georgia Tech before Christmas.

While Kordell Stewart of Marrero, La., and Clester Johnson of Bellevue, Neb., didn't post these kind of figures, they can both run and throw. Johnson, who might immediately help Nebraska's backup quarterback problem, has passed and rushed for 4,069 yards and 45 touchdowns. You think he isn't an athlete? He's the state 300 meter hurdle champ and second ranked 189-pounder in Nebraska wrestling circles.

Stewart is the perfect combination of a run-pass quarterback. He passed for 941 yards and 17 TDs and rushed for 942 yards and 23 scores. No wonder he was the New Orleans Player of the Year and MVP among Louisiana high school stars.

As for running backs, nobody gets it in gear like Marquette Smith, whose career totaled over 7,500 yards rushing and 75 touchdowns. He was recruited by the entire college football world and



Pat Riley was the most recruited player in the talent-rich state of Louisiana.

one publication called him the national offensive Player of the Year. Stephen Pitts, who scooted for 1,926 yards and 23 TDs, is considered the top player in the East and committed early to Penn State.

Hickey Thompson rushed for an amazing 3,105 yards and 41 TDs this year. He gained a state record 401 yards in one playoff game this year. Dwight McFadden led Lawton (Ike), Okla., to the mythical national championship (According to *USA Today*). Aided by topflight teammates and against good opposition, he gained 1,936 and 26 TDs. His smooth, gliding stride belies his good speed.

At fullback is Marvell Scott who, although was healthy for only five games, netted 940 yards and 15 TDs. He's top-notch muscle in the classroom, too and a necessity for an Option-I attack. Another Oklahoma back, Che Foster, has been recruited for three years. Last season, he gained 1,884 yards in 10 games and led his team to the state title as a junior.

The deepest talent on the offense is at wide receiver and flanker. All four of the wideouts are tall (6-3), can fly and have great hands. Kenny Harrison caught 53 passes for 790 yards but only four touchdowns. He's the slowest of the group but nobody has ever caught him from behind.

JaJaun Penny played on a team with a derelict passing offense but he caught four scoring passes, all coming on plays of 50 yards or more. He led his team in interceptions and blocked two kicks. His 4.4 speed is matched by Carlos Artis, who earlier committed verbally to play basketball at Kansas State but never signed. After catching 32 passes for 630 yards, he decided to play football, but he'll try both sports in college.

Arguably the best might be Darnay Scott whose 34 receptions for 736 yards and 13 touchdowns are superb figures in any language. He caught 66 passes as a junior and ran the 100 meters in 10.6. One recruiter says Scott will be in the Pro Bowl in 1996.

The first flanker is tiny speedster Mike Miller, who was Prep Football Report's Offensive Player of the Year. The fast-

SMA 1990 HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICAN TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Time	Hometown
WR	Kenny Harrison	6-3	180	4.6	Port Arthur (Jefferson), TX
WR	JaJaun Penny	6-3	180	4.4	Tulsa (Washington), OK
WR	Darnay Scott	6-3	185	4.4	San Diego (Kearny), CA
WR	Carlos Artis	6-3	180	4.4	Phoenix (Washington), AZ
TE	Dameian Jeffries	6-5	241	4.6	Sylacauga (Comer), AL
TE	Greg Delong	6-5	225	4.6	Orefield (Parkland), PA
OL	John Elmore	6-4	255	5.0	Sherman, TX
OL	Scott Joslyn	6-5	290	5.1	Orlando (Evans), FL
OL	John Stevenson	6-4	290	4.9	Memphis (Christian Bros.), TN
OL	Scott Stratton	6-6	310	5.1	West Chester (Lakota), OH
OL	John Horn	6-6	255	4.9	Joliet (Catholic), IL
OL	Mike Fredenburg	6-5	305	5.0	Kennesaw (N. Cobb), GA
OL	Trezelle Jenkins	6-7	285	5.0	Chicago (Morgan Park), IL
OL	Chad Hammond	6-4	245	4.8	Wheatridge, CO
C	Aaron Graham	6-4	254	5.1	Denton, TX
C	Clay Shiver	6-3	245	4.8	Tifton (Fifton Co.), GA
QB	Kordell Stewart	6-3	200	4.5	Marrero (Ehret), LA
QB	Clester Johnson	5-11	185	4.5	Bellevue (West), NE
QB	Donnie Davis	6-3	185	4.6	Burlington (Cummings), NC
RB	Marquette Smith	5-8	187	4.4	Winter Park (Lake Howell), FL
RB	Stephen Pitts	6-1	190	4.5	Middletown (South), NJ
RB	Hickey Thompson	5-11	180	4.4	Belleville (Althoff), IL
RB	Dwight McFadden	6-1	174	4.5	Lawton (Eisenhower), OK
FB	Marvell Scott	5-11	210	4.5	Wheaton (Central), IL
FB	Che Foster	6-3	225	4.65	Edmond, OK
FL	Mike Miller	5-7	170	4.4	Sugar Land (Willowridge), TX
FL	Rafael Denson	5-8	170	4.4	Ardmore, OK

DEFENSE

DL	Sam Adams	6-3	263	4.8	Houston (Cypress Creek), TX
DL	Greg Wilkins	6-4	280	4.7	Chicago (Vocational), IL
DL	Clint Moore	6-4	278	4.9	Longmont, CO
DL	Allen Gonzalez	6-4	275	4.9	Jenks, OK
DL	Leslie Ratliffe	6-7	260	4.7	Newport, AR
DL	Sean Jones	6-4	245	4.9	Marrero (Shaw), LA
DL	Trent Zenkewicz	6-5	265	4.9	Cleveland (St. Ignatius), OH
DE	Pat Riley	6-6	250	4.8	Marrero (Shaw), LA
DE	Kevin Carter	6-3	218	4.7	Tallahassee (Lincoln), FL
DE	Fred Harris	6-4	217	4.7	Shreveport (Woodlawn), LA
DE	Huntley Bakich	6-3	210	4.5	Dallas (White), TX
LB	Jamir Miller	6-5	225	4.7	El Cerrito, CA
LB	Tremayne Green	6-2	230	4.6	Marshall, TX
LB	John Taliaferro	6-4	228	4.8	Hyattsville (DeMatha), MD
LB	Todd Atkins	6-3	225	4.7	Ellwood City (Laurel), PA
S	Ryan Stewart	6-3	187	4.6	Moncks Corner (Berkeley), SC
S	Deollo Anderson	6-1	190	4.5	Youngstown (Ursuline), OH
S	Rodney Young	6-3	200	4.4	Ruston, LA
S	Derrick Brooks	6-0	200	4.5	Pensacola (Washington), FL
CB	Kevin McIntosh	6-0	196	4.6	Kansas City (Hickman Mills), MO
CB	Ryan Huffman	6-1	200	4.4	Houston (Clear Creek), TX
CB	Wilbert Biggens	5-8	185	4.5	Houston (MacArthur), TX
CB	Alex Molden	5-11	185	4.5	Colorado Springs (Sierra), CO
K	Scott Blanton	6-2	190	—	Norman, OK

est of the All-Americans, he repeatedly runs the 40 in 4.35, which helped him catch 35 passes for 640 yards and six TDs. He also scored eight times rushing.

Rafael Denson rushed for 2,116 yards and 37 touchdowns last year, but he's projected as a big-time college receiver. It's claimed he once ran a 4.25 in the 40. He was chosen back of the year in Oklahoma when the state had three great candidates.

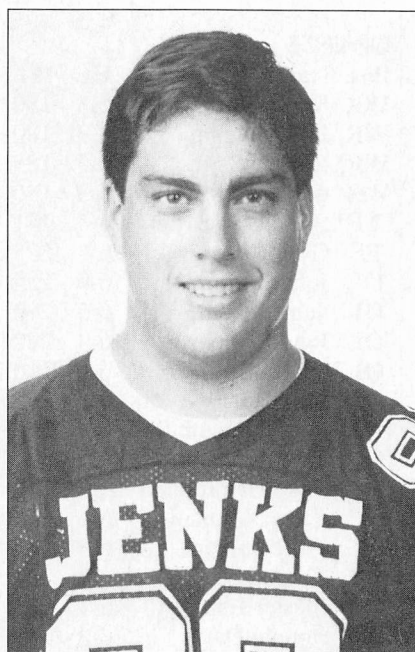
Now, to where the games are won, the line. They average 6-5 by 274 pounds, and growing. The largest is Scott Stratton, who at 6-6 weighs 310 pounds. He benches 405 pounds and Notre Dame had the inside track on him since the beginning. Another behemoth is 305-pound Mike Fredenburg. He benches 455 pounds, averages four pancake blocks per game and on defense logged 15 quarterback sacks.

Chad Hammond swooned to Colorado's national co-championship. He's supposedly bigger and better at this point than CU All-American Joe Garten and he's easily the best in the classroom after scoring a 31 on the ACT. Part of the big Texas haul is guard John Elmore, who is considered an amazingly advanced pass blocker for a schoolboy. Along with his raw physical talent are 3.3 grades.

Scott Joslyn and Jon Stevenson are two of the best in the talent-laden South. In the Chicago area, there was no doubt about John Horn and Trezelle Jenkins. All four are earth movers. The centers, Aaron Graham and Clay Shiver are the class of this position. Shiver helped make Georgia Tech's recruiting class top-notch and Graham is just another in a long list of top-notch Texas linemen.

Penn State has had tight end Greg DeLong wrapped up for months. He caught 20 passes for fives TDs and 340 yards, along with 13 quarterback sacks on defense. Damien Jefferies blocks like a truck and still found time to gain 338 yards and convert 21 receptions into five touchdowns.

Great defensive linemen are hard to find but three publications agreed that Sam Adams was the best nationally in this class. He had 101 tackles, 23 of them were sacks. He has good genes,



Allen Gonzalez of Jenks, Okla., is one of the best defensive linemen in the country

too, as his dad played well for the New England Patriots. Greg Wilkins and Leslie Ratliffe are a little bigger and faster than Adams but neither is as technically polished. Any one of these three would be a great start for any defense.

Clint Moore, who's headed for Colorado, Allen Gonzalez and Trent Zenkewicz, who has been locked for Michigan since Christmas, might be in this class. The other honoree is Sean Jones, who logged more tackles than his highly recruited teammate Pat Riley.

Riley is listed as a defensive end and was the most recruited player in Louisiana. The other ends don't have his size but Kevin Carter (4.7), Fred Harris (4.7) and Huntley Backich (4.5) have unequalled speed. Recruiters forecast first year playing time for each of these young men.

The middle linebackers are on all recruiting lists. Jamir Miller may be the best prospect in California and Tremayne Green missed five games but had 157 tackles and nine QB sacks! Todd Atkins reportedly is the best

Pennsylvania prospect after 104 tackles, seven sacks and seven fumble recoveries. John Taliaferro (pronounced Toliver) is another in a long line of top prospects from DeMatha High School and he has stats comparable to the other MLBs.

The defensive secondary is loaded with players who also had great rushing stats. Wilbert Biggens rushed for over 2,000 yards and led his team in interceptions. He's small but has burning speed. Deollo Anderson is rated the highest by recruiters. He rushed for 823 yards, had four interceptions and 10 pass deflections. He's the perfect strong safety type.

Rodney Young is a brutal tackler, who had 91 tackles, five interceptions and caused five fumbles. Colorado led all the way in recruiting Alex Molden, who had six interceptions and over the last two years has returned nine punts for TDs. Kevin McIntosh was the most recruited player in the Kansas City area, considered the best one-on-one coverage man and also played option quarterback. His speed is unquestioned.

Derrick Brooks, his team's leading rusher, is mentioned in the same breath with Marquette Smith. His talent is tremendous but he needs improvement academically. We may have saved the best two for last, Ryan Stewart and Ryan Huffman.

Stewart is the prototype strong safety. Loves to hit (91 tackles), had six interceptions and rushed for 805 yards and 12 TDs. He was recruited by everybody. Huffman played quarterback his senior year and his defensive abilities rate him as possibly the best athlete in Texas. He's also a baseball standout and has 3.5 grades. He plans to play both sports in college.

The kicking specialist, Scott Blanton, probably won't leave Oklahoma. He averaged 43.4 yards on 31 punts and kicked 10 field goals, three of which were more than 50 yards. He's a power hitting shortstop in baseball and hopes to do both sports in college.

There you have it and we all know there are many more talented athletes out there. But, we'll stick our collective necks out on these young men....and so did every major college recruiter. ■

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As for Flossie, that picture really is worth a thousand words, although she said it all in just fourteen:

"Never thought I'd be fishing with my husband again. I am one happy lady."

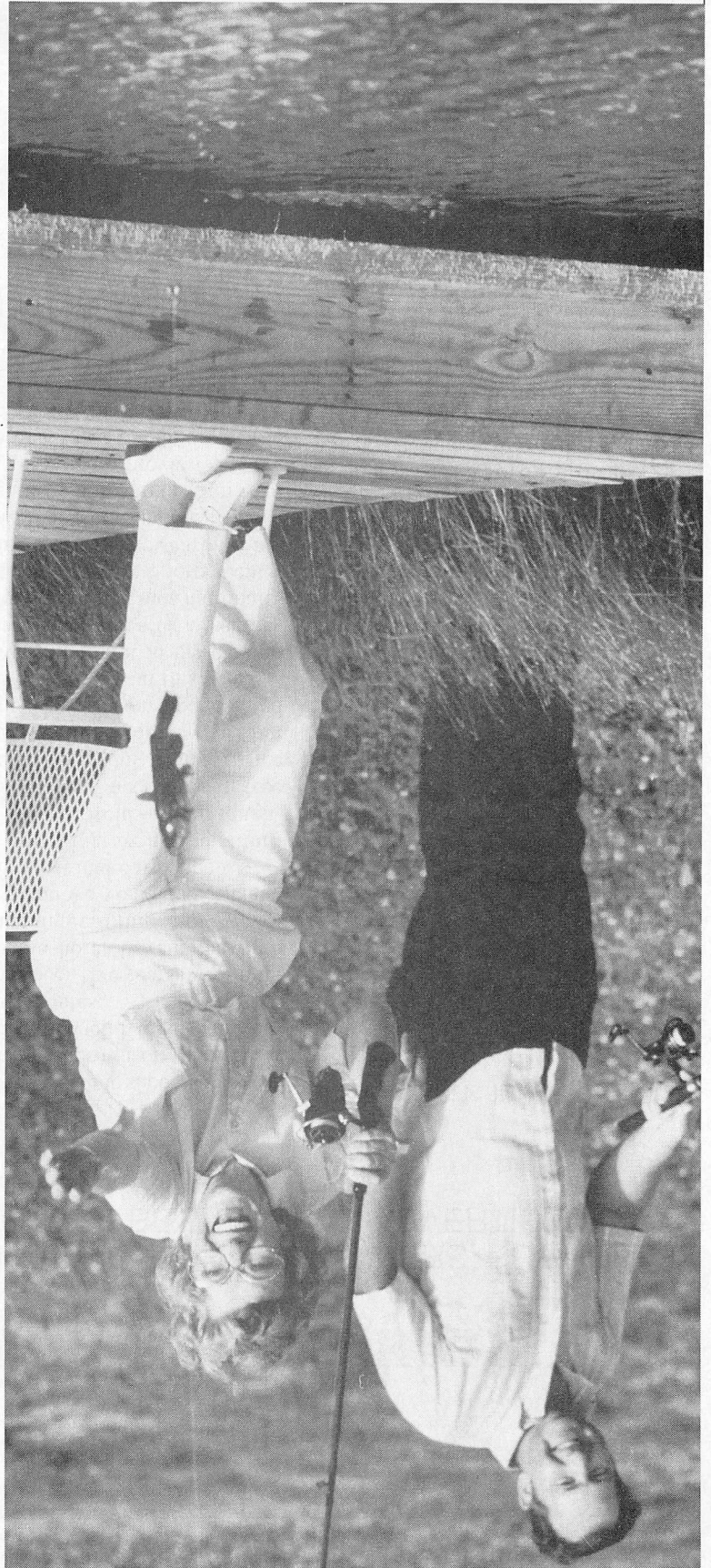


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Five Years in the Making

NEBRASKA'S START SHOCKED BIG EIGHT FOLLOWERS, BUT NEE KNEW HIS TEAM WOULD BE BETTER THAN ADVERTISED.

What a difference one season makes. Consider the Nebraska basketball team.

The Cornhuskers were 10-18 a year ago, which helps explain why they were picked by most experts to finish as low as eighth and no higher than seventh in the Big Eight Conference this year.

It also underscores a dramatic turnaround, in which Nebraska won its 10th game this season on Dec. 22, defeating Miami of Ohio 88-73.

But even that doesn't capture the essence of Danny Nee's fifth season as head coach. After defeating Iowa State 97-87 in their conference home opener, the Cornhuskers were 16-1 with a school record-tying 14 consecutive victories.

The record was set during the final nine games of the 1911-12 season and the first five games of 1912-13.

This year's start was Nebraska's best since the 1912-13 team won 17 of its first 18 games — in a 19-game season. Almost overnight, the Cornhuskers found themselves in the national wire service rankings, something that hadn't happened since 1978. After the Iowa State victory, Nebraska was No. 17 in the Associated Press poll and No. 13 in the United Press International poll, ahead of such traditional powers as Georgetown as well as Big Eight rivals Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma State.

The Cornhuskers' only loss to that point was to Murray State, 81-79 in the championship game of the San Juan Shootout. They were the first team in Division I of the NCAA to win 16 games.

Nee was surprised by his team's success, sort of.

"It's unique in that we're winning so many games," he said before Nebraska improved its record to 15-1 by winning at Missouri-Kansas City 97-78. "But I don't think it's unique otherwise because we've got good players, and we've paid our dues."

Nee expected some success this season, if for no other reason than senior leadership from Rich King, Beau Reid and Clifford Scales.

"This has been five years in coming. When I came here, I went the high school route in recruiting. Now we've got seniors, and we've got experience. Players are what make it happen."

Scales and King are in their third season as starters. Reid — "our toughest-minded player," according to Nee — has come back strong from the knee injury that sidelined him for all but eight games last season and created considerable doubt about this year.

His three-point shot in the closing seconds gave Nebraska a 71-69 victory against Michigan State, then nationally ranked, at the Devaney Sports Center in the fourth game of the season. That upset, as well as a convincing, 100-73 victory against Illinois in the San Juan Shootout, provided a preview and set the tone of what was to come.

"We've grown up. If we would have lost those first couple of games, we probably wouldn't have believed in ourselves," said junior Carl Hayes, who's led the team in scoring.

Not by much, however. Nebraska has been balanced.

"The thing is, when games have been on the line, when we've faced real competitive situations, someone has risen up," Nee said.

"We've got guys coming off the bench who have raised us to a higher level. Last year, when we substituted, our level of play went down."

The season began with Scales — who has come back from a broken foot suffered last April — King, Reid, Hayes and junior Dapreis Owens as starters. But "I consider that we have seven starters," said Nee.

The other two are Tony Farmer and Jose Ramos, with Eric Piatkowski, Keith Moody and Bruce Chubick playing regularly off the bench. "All those guys have contributed," Nee said.

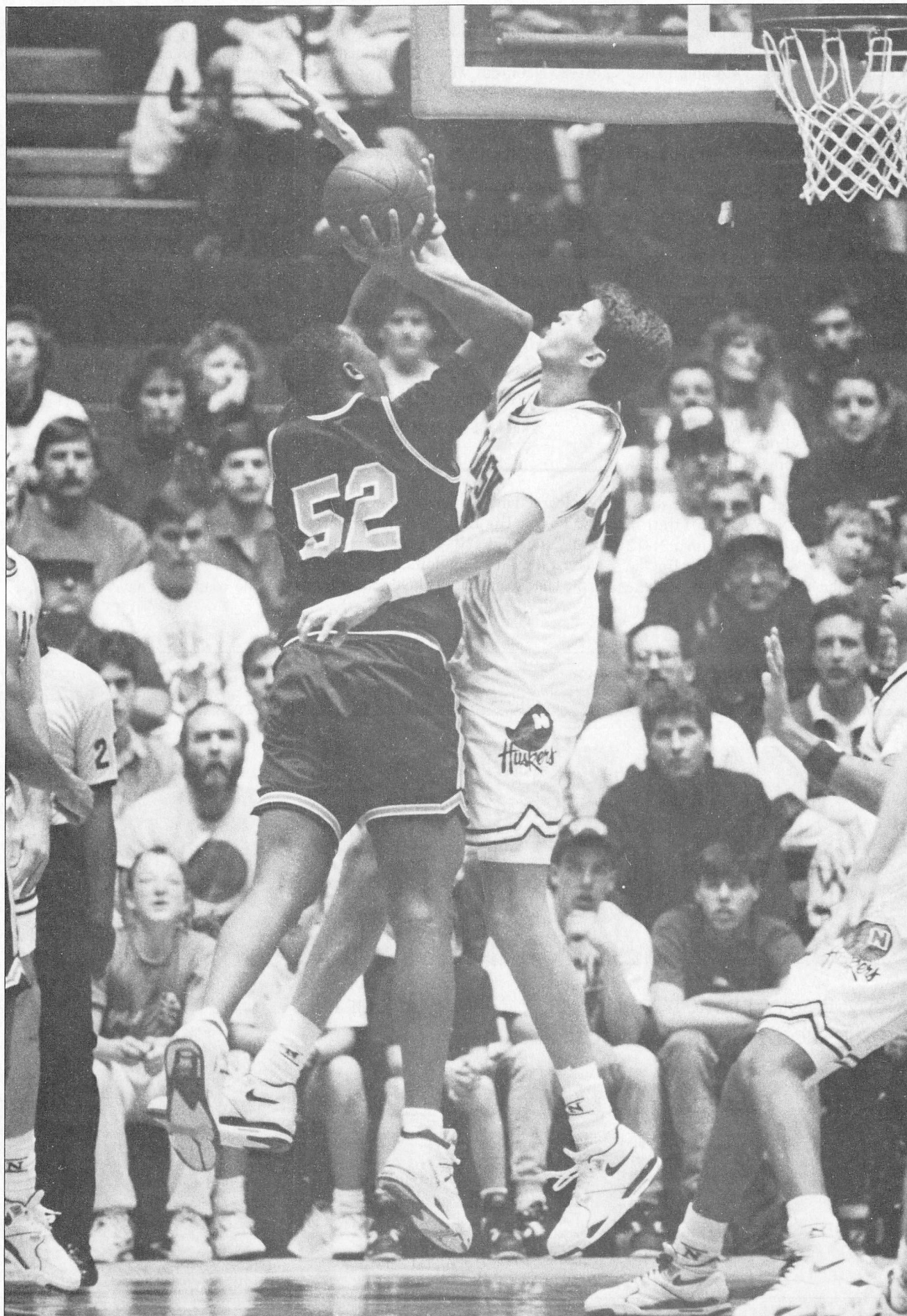
Nee relegated King, an academic all-conference performer, to the bench in January because of a drop in his first-semester grades. Farmer became a starter, instead.

Ramos got his first start four games after becoming eligible, following a 12-game suspension that carried over from his freshman season at the University of Florida. Originally, Nee thought Ramos would be eligible to play against Miami of Ohio, but about two weeks before the game, Nebraska checked with the NCAA and learned the Cornhuskers' two exhibition games didn't count against Ramos' 12-game total. As a result, he made his first appearance against The Citadel in Charleston, S.C.

Ramos responded by hitting 4-of-4 free throws down the stretch in a 94-80 victory. He also was credited with five assists, in 15 minutes of action. With Ramos in the starting lineup, Scales moved from point to off guard, and Reid replaced Owens at forward.

Nine players have averaged 18 or

King (in white) says that Nebraska as a challenger for the Big Eight title is no longer a laughing matter.



more minutes of action per game, an indication of Nee's willingness to substitute and find the right combination for a given set of circumstances. Piatkowski, a redshirted freshman from Rapid City, S.D., has averaged 10 points a game and given the team another three-point threat. He scored 21 points in a 105-68 victory against Toledo, then four games later made eight assists against Miami-Ohio.

Moody, who signed a football letter of intent with Virginia Tech out of high school, has shown dramatic improvement over last season, his first as a Cornhusker after transferring from a junior college.

Nebraska's success has been based on depth, experience and rebounding. Through the Iowa State victory, the Cornhuskers had outrebounded opponents by an average of nearly 10 a game.

The Cornhuskers reached the semifinals of the National Invitation Tournament and finished with a 21-12 record in Nee's first season. But he inherited the heart of that team, and the

optimism which followed quickly disappeared when his second team finished 13-18. Nebraska was 17-16 two seasons ago.

In retrospect, Nee said, he might have underestimated the quality of play in the Big Eight. "The biggest thing

"Last year, we weren't real team-oriented. This year, we said we were going to stay together no matter what happened," said Farmer.

I've learned in four years is the competition in the Big Eight is at the highest level," he said. "If you have weaknesses, they'll be exploited. That said to me I had to get better players and (get

them) experience."

An aggressive recruiting effort has brought the players into the program, and now those players have experience. They also have motivation.

"We were picked to finish eighth (in the conference), and we haven't forgotten," said Reid.

"It's so upbeat around here, and electric. In years past, people would laugh at us and say we were terrible. You think I'm kidding. I'm not. You don't know how bad it was."

After the Kansas State victory, only the fifth conference road victory since he came to Nebraska, Nee told the media: "You guys are all doubters. Our press in Nebraska believes in us. But I don't think anybody else does. I believe in us. I know we're for real."

How times change.

Finishing around the horn... Last season, the Cornhuskers were 1-12 on the road. This season they won seven of their first eight road games, including five on their opponent's home court and two in Puerto Rico.

"The road wins have been a key,"

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junior Tony Farmer said. "Last year, we didn't win on the road, and winning on the road this year just proves that we're out to accomplish our mission."

Farmer, who can score, rebound and pass, also credits Nebraska's success this season to the return to health of Beau Reid. "Beau is probably the biggest difference for us, but we also have more experience, more people, more competition at each position, no friction and no frustration," the 6-9 transfer from San Jose State said.

"Last year, we weren't real team-oriented. This year, we said we were going to stay together, no matter what happened," said Farmer.

Through the Iowa State victory at the Sports Center, Nebraska was 2-0 in conference play, its best start since the 1975-76 season when the Cornhuskers won their first four Big Eight games.

Rich King scored 13 points against Missouri-Kansas City to move ahead of Brian Banks into 10th place on Nebraska's career scoring list, then he scored 23 points against Iowa State to move past Brian Carr into ninth place. If King were to maintain his scoring pace for the remainder of the season, he would move to fourth.

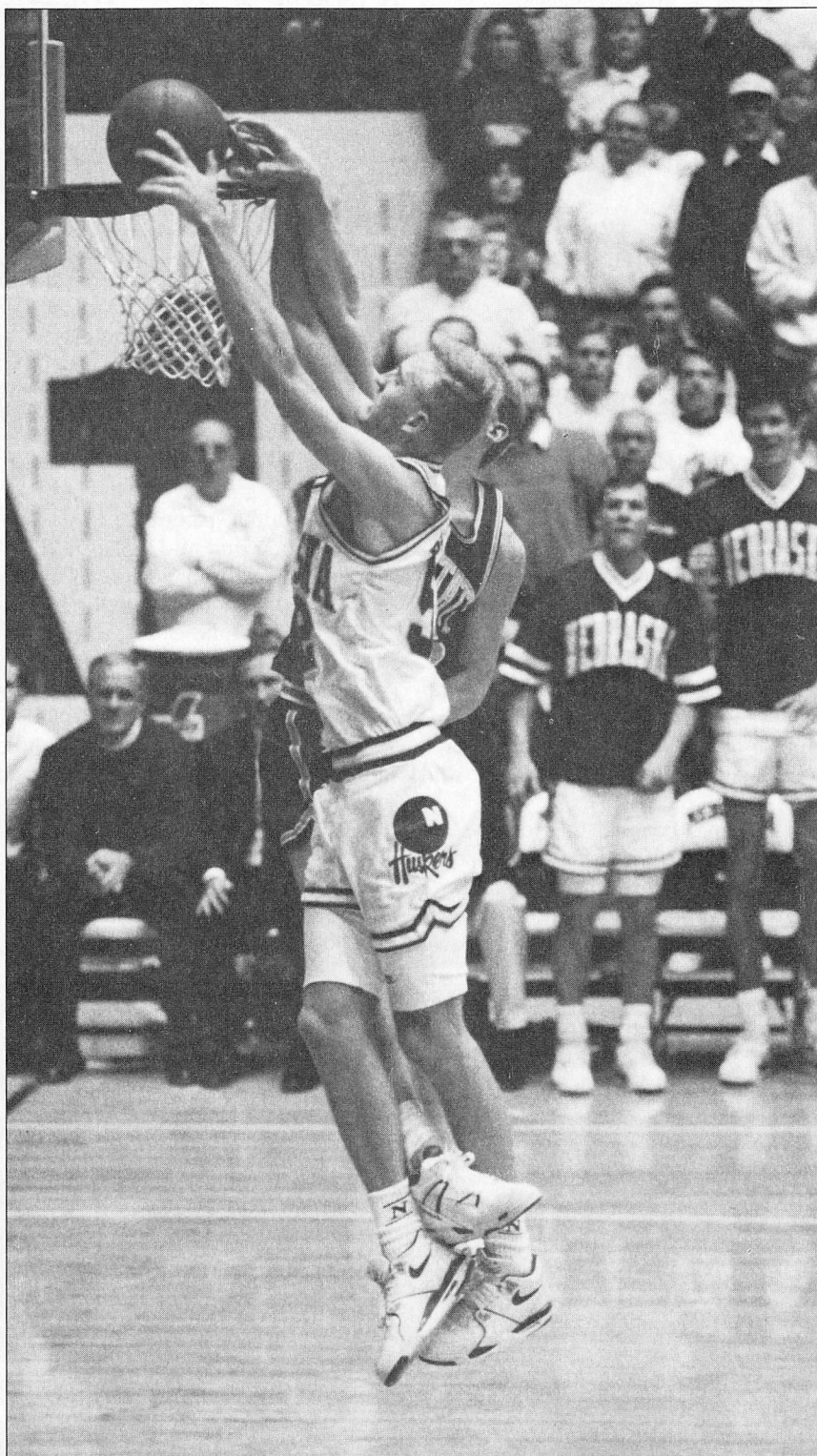
King, prior to Nebraska's conference opener at Kansas State: "Going into the Big Eight, we all feel confident now and don't have to giggle after saying: 'I hope we can contend for the Big Eight title.' You know, like: 'I hope no one heard me say that.'"

Clifford Scales had moved to 13th on Nebraska's all-time scoring list and was almost to become the 13th Cornhusker to score at least 1,000 points during his career. Carr's school record for steals in a career also was well within Scales' reach.

Jerry Fort, who's No. 2 on Nebraska's career scoring list, was one of three inducted into the school's basketball hall of fame during a ceremony at "halftime" of the Iowa State game. The others were the late Jerry Bush, who coached the Cornhuskers for nine seasons, and Leroy Chalk, the school's all-time leading rebounder.

Fort, Nebraska's first three-time all-conference performer, now works for the Travelers Insurance Company in Hartford, Conn., and Chalk plays professional basketball in Europe.

Athletic director Bob Devaney received this year's Nebraska Basketball Hall of Fame Special Merit Award.■



Newcomer Eric Piatkowski has come off the bench to help spark the Huskers, Nee said.

JV REVIEW

NU Shut Out Iowa Central, Dominated Waldorf

THE HUSKER JUNIOR VARSITY SQUAD USED A "TEAM EFFORT" TO BLAST THEIR FINAL TWO OPPONENTS.

By Dirk Maley

Nebraska's junior varsity football team erupted for 21 points in the final quarter to break open a close game and post a 31-0 win over Iowa Central Junior College in the next to last game of the 1990 season.

Touchdowns by Jeff Hughes, Matt Shaw and Lorenzo Brinkley in the fourth quarter turned what had been a close game into a rout as NU improved to 3-1 with the win.

Entering the final quarter of play, NU led just 10-0, but backup quarterback John McMillen, a sophomore walk-on from Council Bluffs, Iowa, lit up the scoreboard with two touchdown

passes within a span of 2:17.

McMillen first hit Hughes, a freshman wingback from Norfolk, Neb., for a 45-yard touchdown with 14:18 left. Then McMillen hit Shaw, a freshman tight end from Lincoln, Neb., for a 47-yard touchdown with 12:01 showing on the clock.

NU scored again less than three minutes later when redshirt freshman cornerback Brinkley, a scholarship recruit from St. Louis, blocked and recovered a punt in the end zone.

The win was a big one for NU, coming one game after a heart-breaking 44-40 loss to the Air Force jayvees.

Iowa Central could muster just 73 yards of offense, 52 through the air and 21 on the ground.

Just once did Iowa Central have a chance at scoring that after NU fumbled at its own 31-yard line. But freshman cornerback Darold Miller, a walkon from Elm Creek, Neb., intercepted a pass to preserve the shutout, NU's second of the season.

"Everybody on the defense played hard, from the top-unit players on down to the lower-unit players. Everybody played their hearts out today," offered Miller, a backup to Mike Sullivan at the right cornerback position. "I was breaking on the ball and I was sure the guy in front of me was going to catch it, but then, the ball took off over his head and came right to me. I kind of bobbled it at first but I managed to hang on and then I just took off running."

Miller made a nice 38-yard return following the interception, but the ball was brought back because of a clipping penalty.

From start to finish, NU's defense shut down Iowa Central's offense. For the game, Iowa Central averaged slightly over one yard per play.

"You could tell from the outset that they were going to have to really battle to move the ball on us consistently," offered NU Coach Bill Weber. "We were better up front, plus our outside linebackers were able to put good pressure on their quarterback. They like to sprint out a lot, so it was important that we had good containment, which we did."

While Weber was excited about NU's defensive effort, he wasn't nearly as ecstatic over NU's offensive performance.

"The offense was real lethargic pretty



Joel Gesky (77) and the rest of the offensive line opened huge holes for Cedric McDonald (23) and the other backs all season.

much the whole game," said Weber. "There was such a wide array of mistakes and it was really tough getting much going. The kids didn't appear mentally ready to play and it showed. We could have run the score up a little earlier in the game but mistakes prevented us from sustaining our drives."

NU scored on its second possession of the game on a 13-yard run by freshman I-back Bob Cook, a walkon from Omaha, Neb. As it turned out, those would be NU's only first-half points.

NU's next score came on its first possession of the third quarter, a 35-yard field goal by Jeff Lang, a freshman kicker/punter from Papillion, Neb.

Later in the third quarter, NU looked to have an excellent opportunity to score again when freshman middle guard Bill Humphrey, a scholarship recruit from Libertyville, Ill., recovered a fumble at Iowa Central's 31. But key penalties hurt NU and the Huskers gave the ball back to Iowa Central after failing to convert on a fourth-and-9 play.

After NU's defense held Iowa Central on three plays, walkon split end Todd Hurt, a freshman walkon from Ralston, Neb., returned a punt 62 yards to give NU a first-and-10 at Iowa Central's 17. But an interception thwarted NU's chance to score.

Finally, in the fourth quarter, NU's offense got its act together as McMillen, with a strong wind behind him, connected with Hughes and Shaw.

For the game, Hughes, a walkon, caught four passes for 68 yards while Shaw, also a walkon, had two catches for 65 yards.

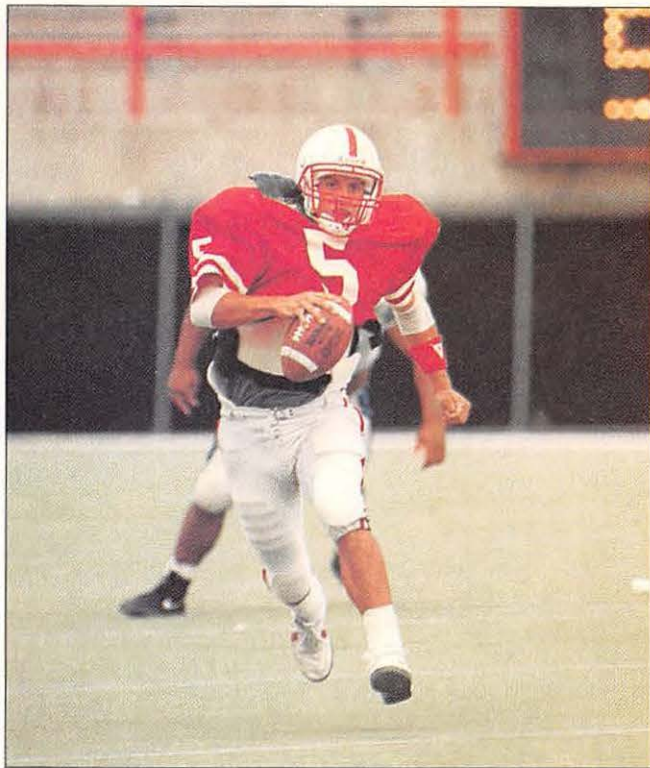
Shaw, who played his prep ball for Northeast High School in Lincoln, looks to be a player with potential.

"I'm happy with how I've played, but I've got to get a lot stronger if I'm going to want to compete at the varsity level," offered Shaw. "It's something I'm really going to have to work hard on in the off season."

Shaw says the fact he's from Lincoln has given him an advantage over many of his teammates.

"Being from Lincoln, and having my family here for support, has made the transition from high school to college a whole lot easier," Shaw said. "Plus, I've gotten a lot of support from

**QB Matt Jones
threw for 243
yards and ran
for two
touchdowns in
Nebraska's
47-0 stomping
of Waldorf
Junior College.**




**Fullback Kyle
Emsick burst in
from the 1 to
give the
Huskers a 25-0
lead over
Waldorf.**

friends and other people that I know from around town, and that's helped a lot too."

Against Iowa Central, the young Huskers learned a valuable lesson: intensity is an important part of football.

Clearly, NU had the edge in talent over Iowa Central, but mental miscues and a lack of intensity kept the game close for three quarters.

At the half, "We really didn't make any adjustments from what we were



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ARZIL LINCOLN

doing before," Weber noted. "It was just a matter of getting the kids to increase their intensity. They read in the paper (how they're expected to win easily) and they look back and see how we played the team a year ago and see what the score was and that, unfortunately, affects how they prepare mentally."

Intensity certainly wasn't lacking in NU's next game as the Huskers blasted Waldorf (Iowa) Junior College 47-0 in the season finale.

NU's offense racked up 593 yards of offense against Waldorf, while NU's defense, in recording its third shutout of the season, held the visitors to just 242.

With the win, NU ended the season 4-1. (In addition to wins over Iowa Central and Waldorf, NU also posted victories over Snow Junior College and Bethany College during the 1990 season.)

After the victory over Waldorf, Weber noted, "This wasn't a team that was blessed with tremendous athletic ability but they (members of the team) worked hard and they had a real good attitude. The most notable thing about them is their intelligence. You didn't have to coach them a tremendous amount. Once they learned the offense and defense, it was pretty much just fine tuning from there."

Against Waldorf, NU jumped out to a quick 7-0 lead, taking the opening kickoff and driving 51 yards for a touchdown in just over one minute.

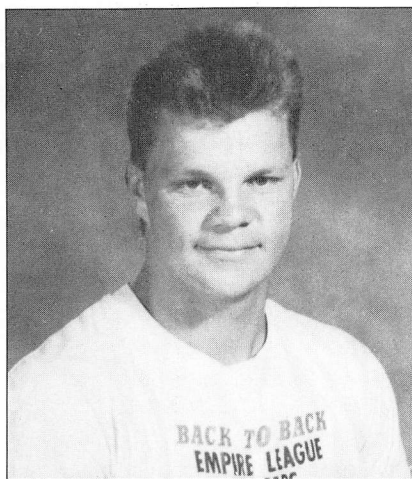
Fullback Cory Schlesinger, a freshman scholarship recruit from Duncan, Neb., scored the touchdown on a 28-yard run.

Waldorf attempted a 25-yard field goal on the first play of the second quarter, but Lorenzo Brinkley blocked the attempt to keep NU on top 7-0.

NU scored later in the quarter when quarterback Matt Jones, a freshman scholarship recruit from Michigan City, Ind., ran in from two yards out to put the Huskers up 13-0. NU failed on its attempt for a two-point conversion.

NU added a touchdown in the third quarter on a 30-yard run by Jones, but the Huskers failed once again to convert on a two-point play, keeping the score 19-0.

NU's offense exploded in the fourth quarter as fullback Kyle Emsick, guard Pat Kudrna, fullback Rick Blatny and



Havens, a freshman from Los Alamitos, Calif., was second on the squad with 27 total tackles, including nine in the season finale.

I-back Chad Pieters all scored touchdowns.

Emsick, a freshman walkon from Lincoln, scored on a 1-yard run at the 13:11 mark; Kudrna, a junior scout team player from Sioux City, Iowa, scored after recovering a fumble by Jones in the Waldorf end zone with 7:11 left to play; Blatny, a freshman walkon from Fairbury, Neb., scored with 3:34 remaining on a 6-yard run; and Pieters, a freshman walkon from Columbus, Neb., scored on a 2-yard run with just :21 remaining.

Leading rushers for NU against Waldorf were Emsick and Schlesinger, both of whom gained 71 yards, and Pieters, who gained 62.

Despite winning big, NU did not play a perfect game. NU was flagged for numerous penalties (11 in all) while Jones, despite throwing for 243 yards, was intercepted three times.

"I think playing well on defense and now allowing them much of anything was a real advantage," offered Weber. "Any time you hold a team to no points and make it difficult for them to drive the length of the field, you can overcome a few mistakes."

NU's defense gave Waldorf quarterbacks Pat Rowan and Darius White fits all day as the two tossed four interceptions.

Safety Jason Simdorn, a freshman

walkon from Dannebrog, Neb., had two interceptions, both in the fourth quarter, which set up the touchdowns by Blatny and Pieters.

Also intercepting passes against Waldorf were safety Jay Herman, a freshman walkon from Lakeside, Neb., and cornerback Mike Sullivan, a freshman walkon from Norfolk, Neb.

NU's leading tackler against Waldorf was freshman outside linebacker Steve Grove, a walkon from Omaha, who had 12.

On the season, Grove led the Huskers with 34 total tackles.

Linebacker Brian Havens, a freshman scholarship recruit from Los Alamitos, Calif., had nine tackles against Waldorf and 27 on the season, second best on the team. Another linebacker, LeRoi Jones, a freshman walkon from Red Bank, N.J., had six tackles against Waldorf and 26 on the season to rank third.

Grove never imagined he would finish the season as NU's leading tackler.

"I wasn't even expecting to start when I first reported to fall camp," offered Grove. "I just worked hard and I think I developed a lot, especially in terms of my technique."

Unlike Groves, freshman offensive tackle Joel Wilks figured he would have a chance to start on this year's freshman/junior varsity squad.

"That was my goal when I first came here," said Wilks. "After the first couple of practices, I was pretty confident I could do it."

Wilks, who played his prep ball for Hastings High School in Hastings, Neb., was one of many walk-ons who helped Nebraska's freshman/junior varsity football program continue its tradition of excellence in 1990.

With this year's record included, NU is 120-17-1 at the junior varsity level.

This year's team did quite well, especially considering the lack of scholarship players on the roster.

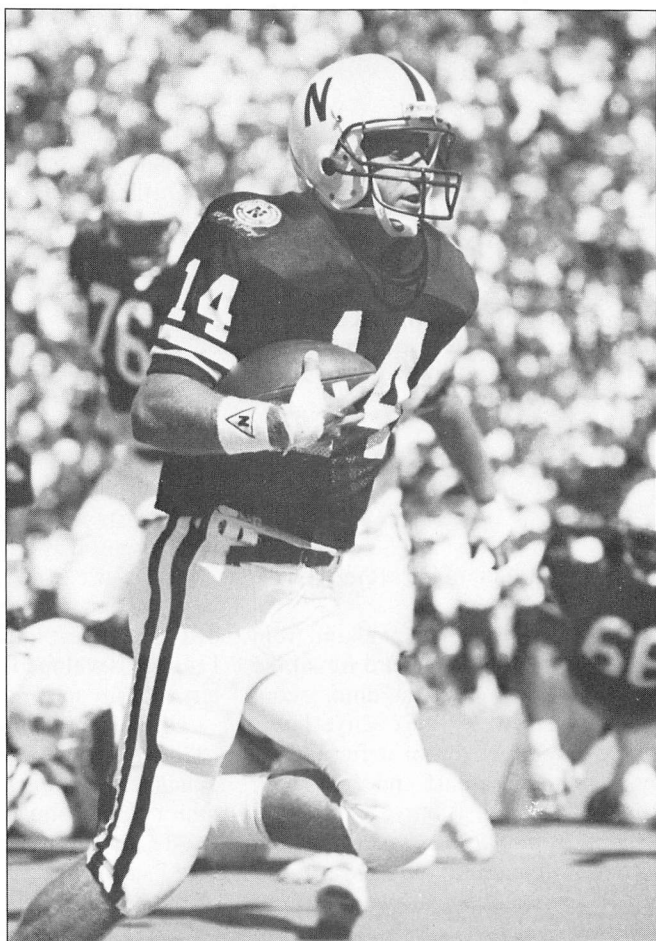
"Most of the big name players got this year, so we had to go mostly with walk-ons," noted Wilks. "We didn't rely on any one person. We all worked together to get the job done."

That was the case against Waldorf and throughout the season. Hard work and determination paid off again and again for the players that are the future of Nebraska football. ■

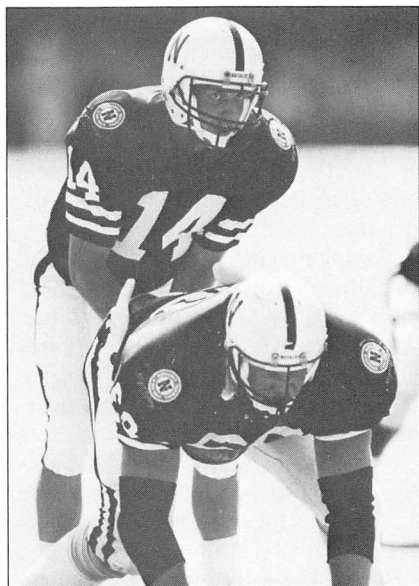
Life Goes On

FIVE FORMER GRIDDER LOOK TO A FUTURE WITHOUT FOOTBALL

By
Keith
Zimmer



Once drafted by the Saints, former All-Big Eight QB Gdowski is an associate accountant in Minneapolis.



Consider if you will the association of being an athlete for approximately 15 years and continually being reinforced and praised for your athletic accomplishments. Suddenly due to injury, not being drafted or being waived, athletic careers abruptly terminate. For those not adequately prepared, the transition out of sports can be a challenging one consisting of emotions such as anger, denial, bargaining, depression and acceptance.

Many Husker fans take great pride in following the Huskers who beat the odds and secure a position with a National Football League team. Rookies to survive from the 1989-90 Cornhusker squad include Kent Wells (New York Giants), Jeff Mills (San Diego Chargers), Ken Clark (Indianapolis Colts) and Richard Bell (Pittsburgh Steelers).

Other Huskers who appeared to have legitimate opportunities with an NFL team included All-American linemen Jake Young and Doug Glaser, All Big-Eight quarterback Gerry Gdowski, split end Morgan Gregory and kicker Chris Drennan. Presently, Young, Glaser, Gdowski, Gregory and Drennan are dealing with their transition out of sports and finding that, indeed, life goes on.

Despite claiming prestigious athletic accolades such as All-American center, Midland, Tex., native Jake Young was overlooked by the NFL. According to Young, "I was somewhat shocked that I didn't get drafted. However, I didn't take it personally." Young's greatest strength with Nebraska was perhaps his most glaring weakness in the eyes of pro scouts. "At Nebraska, I lacked the proven ability to be given a chance to be effective in a pro-style offense," he said.

Even though not drafted, Young and an agent discussed free-agent contracts with teams indicating an interest in him. Ultimately, Young acted upon his father's advice and lifelong message of there being more to life than sports. Academic All-American Young, recipient of the NCAA's most prestigious honor, the NCAA Top Six Award, opted

to continue with his finance degree and add accounting as a double major. Fortunately for Young, he prepared for more than an athletic career while at Nebraska. Internships at a legal firm and financial institution have helped him focus on his future goal of becoming a lawyer after graduation this fall.

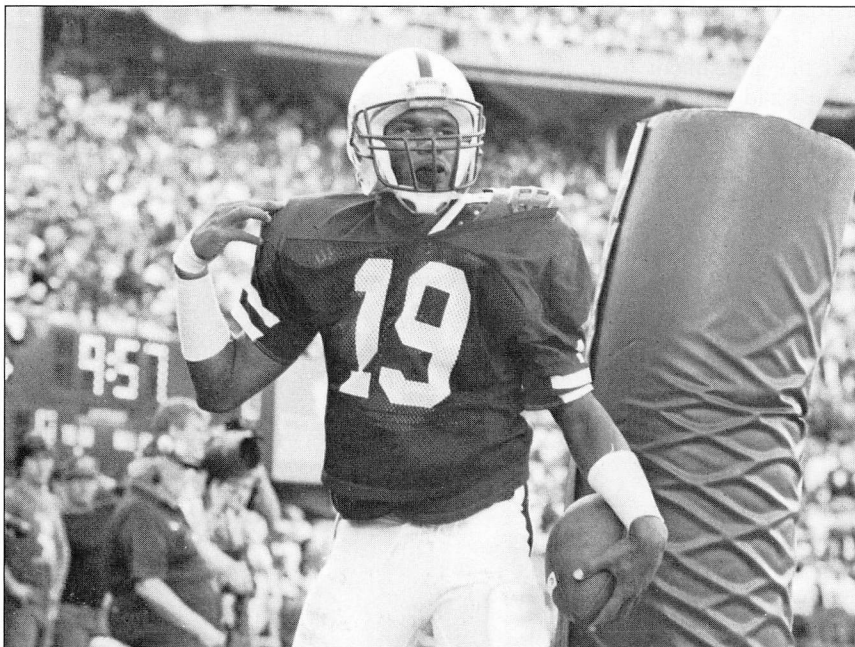
Even though Young has seemingly made a smooth transition from his days as a Husker hero to an aspiring law student, the confusion still persists. "I often wonder why football is over and have some difficulty in accepting it all. It's like Coach Osborne told us, football is not going to last forever and when it's over, you have to do something else," recalled Young. Definitely, Young has the tools to excel and handle the next stage of life, whatever it may bring.

The man Jake Young snapped the ball to, Gerry Gdowski, had the ideal situation entering training camp with the New Orleans Saints.

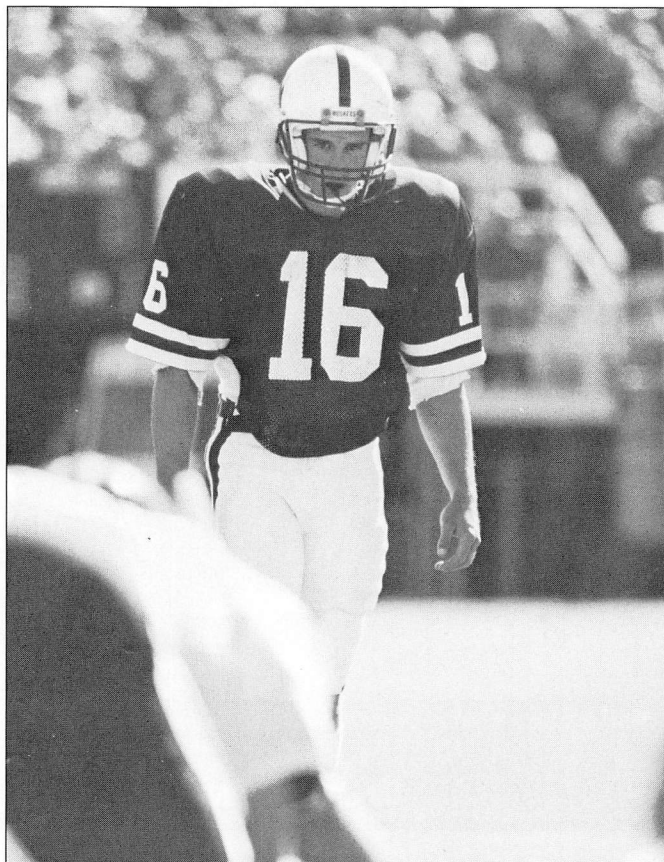
Gdowski, who established himself as one of the premier Husker quarterbacks and shared All-Big Eight honors with Colorado's Darian Hagan, had secured full-time employment prior to graduation. On April 23, 1989, the second day of the NFL draft, the Saints selected Gdowski in the eighth round. Remembers Gdowski, "I was very excited as I really didn't know what to expect."

Gdowski, who was drafted as a quarterback upfront, had mixed memories about training camp. "Two weeks of two-a-days consisting of 12-hour days was very demanding. The trip to London during our exhibition game with the Los Angeles Raiders was a good break as there was time for some sightseeing and public relations."

The largest source of frustration for Gdowski came in the lack of opportunity to prove himself. "Just when I was learning the pro-style offense and starting to feel comfortable, they switched me to defensive back. Two defensive backs were holding out, so they thought I might fit in quicker there." Unfortunately for Gdowski, the two soon signed and Gdowski could see the writing on the wall. "Coach Jim Mura called me into his office and politely told me I



Gregory (above) discovered he had certain health problems and was forced to leave the Patriots and his life-long love affair with football. Drennan (right) is looking to the new World Football League in hopes of latching on as a kicker.



didn't fit into their plans. It didn't catch me by surprise at all," concluded Gdowski.

Concerning emotions felt regarding the transition out of football, Gdowski said, "I definitely miss the game but with the adjustment to a new job, I haven't had time to think about it too much."

Gdowski, who hails from Fremont,

Neb., is currently an associate accountant with Coopers and Lybrand in Minneapolis. Compiling big figures is nothing new to Gdowski, who did so as a Husker with 1,326 passing yards and over 900 in rushing.

Gdowski, who is married to the former Sammie Resh of Shelton, Neb., enjoys his job. "My major role is to audit corporate financial statements and

then verify for accuracy," he said.

Not only has his job eased the transition out of athletics for Gdowski, Sammie has been very supportive. "She has been very understanding of the whole experience," remarked Gdowski.

Sammie, an elite distance runner, is serving as a volunteer high school cross country coach and running a road race circuit with stops in San Diego, Chicago, Raleigh, N.C., and New York.

Gdowski has many fond reflections of his football past. "I wouldn't have traded the Nebraska experience for anything. The program brought out the best in me and developed qualities such as communication and leadership which I rely on today."

If there is anything such as an NFL sure shot, 6-7, 295-pound offensive tackle Doug Glaser appeared to be one. Glaser, a three-year letter winner and All-American from Balch Springs, Tex., was considered one of the Huskers' brightest stars in the NFL draft scheduled by many to be selected as high as the fourth round.

The unpredictability and insecurity of the NFL soon became a reality as Glaser was ignored in the draft. "I was very disappointed. I felt I had equal if not better ability to other linemen who were selected," said Glaser. Confused by the lack of respect given to Nebraska linemen in the draft, Glaser and his agent felt due to the aging Washington Redskin line, a position could still be secured.

Glaser, who spent over a month with the Redskins prior to being released could sense the end. "Although I was the last of five rookie free agents, my plays went down dramatically against Buffalo."

Shortly thereafter Glaser was released in favor of age and experience. Glaser's opinion on his release, "I was told I wasn't an effective pro-type pass blocker."

Perhaps, feels Glaser, there was a better purpose for the NFL not materializing. Due to not being redshirted at Nebraska, Glaser was behind in his Construction Management program. He is now on target to graduate this upcoming May. Glaser's degree program nearly suffered interference shortly after resuming school this fall. Near the end of September, with the reinstatement of the developmental squad, Glaser had the opportunity to be a practice player and make a respectable living

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with the Redskins. Wisely, Glaser realized the "business aspect" of football and rejected the offer in favor of academia and his wife Tracey, a substitute teacher for the Lincoln Schools.

Scheduled for graduation in May of '91, Doug hopes to become a project engineer or attend graduate school. Football, according to Glaser, isn't in his future plans. "I told myself to give the NFL one dose of my best effort and if that didn't work to move on."

Glaser is clearly moving on in the right direction and many great Husker recollections will follow.

"Nebraska football has made the most significant impact on my life. The whole organization and the entire state were tremendous," concluded Glaser.

Perhaps the most vicious and psychologically damaging separation from the NFL includes the transition experienced by former stellar Huskers Morgan Gregory and Chris Drennan.

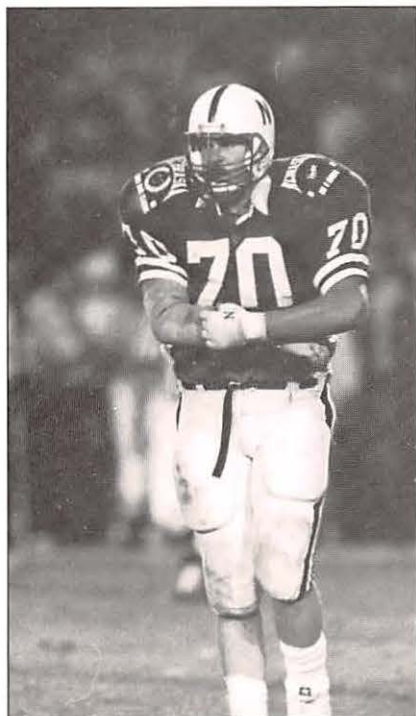
Gregory, a three-year starter at split end for Nebraska, signed a free-agent contract with the New England Patriots. Said Gregory, who is currently an

undergraduate assistant coach with the Cornhuskers, "The mini-camps went great for me and I was doing good in training camp. My confidence was building as I did well in practice games with the Redskins and Giants. I knew I could play at this level."

Gregory might have beat the odds and become an NFL player had it not been for health problems. "I became ill

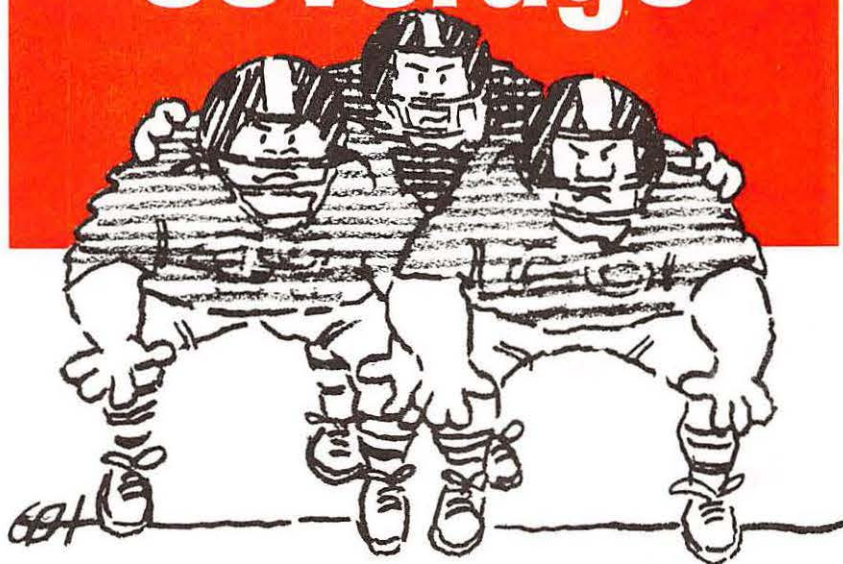
and due to stress had high blood pressure. Then it was detected that I have some minor heart irregularities and I was told I'd be risking my health if I continued," Gregory said.

Gregory, who will graduate in August '91 with a counseling emphasis, hopes to become either a youth counselor or teacher. Although presently thinking about the future without



Doug Glaser hopes to graduate this May; he feels NU football had a significant impact on his life.

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football, Gregory confirmed it has been tough knowing the ability is there but having to leave the Patriots due to health circumstances. "In a way," said Gregory, "I wish I was cut from the team."

NFL or the new World Football League are still very much on the mind of former Husker kicker Chris Drennan.

Drennan, an auditor with Days Inn Hotel in Lincoln, survived all but the final cut with the New England Patriots. Drennan, a former free agent with New England, battled current starter Jason Staurovsky down to the wire and, according to Drennan, lost out due to experience and not ability.

"He had seven games under his belt as a pro and they told me that if anything happened with Jason, I would be the first they would call."

The World Football League, which holds its draft in November, is also a possibility being considered by

Taking advice from his father, Young opted to hit the books instead of defensive linemen.

Drennan.

Drennan's symptoms clearly classify as the denial and bargaining phase of grief. In spite of being released, he continues to work out at Memorial Stadium in hopes of landing a roster spot. Drennan's rationale for striving for the NFL is simple. "I was on the inside of the NFL and realize I'm capable of playing and not that far away from having it happen. Also, I'm a competi-

tor by nature and have had too many people tell me not to give it up."

Drennan avoids discouragement by referring to Pro Bowl Kansas City Chiefs kicker Nick Lowery. "Lowery was cut 12 times before latching on with a pro team."

Persistence is indeed a valued quality as is the desired acceptance phase when football is over. The NFL hasn't been the only anxious issue for Chris; he and his wife Collette are expecting their first child in early November.

It is only natural for elite athletes such as Young, Gdowski, Glaser, Gregory and Drennan to aspire to the ranks of the NFL. Such a goal is admirable when coupled with equal emphasis toward graduation and career development. Proper preparation and perspective of the game will enable athletes to adjust to the real world and prove that life goes on. ■



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IF THEY LOOK LIKE COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYERS, YOU'RE ONLY SEEING PART OF THE PICTURE.

Toyota congratulates the 1990 Leaders of the Year and weekly Leadership Award recipients. Toyota extends special congratulations to Eddie Robinson of Alabama State University and Todd Sandroni of the University of Mississippi for being chosen as Leaders of the Year. Toyota recognizes all the students listed below for excelling in athletics, academics, and community service. Their discipline and unrelenting

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